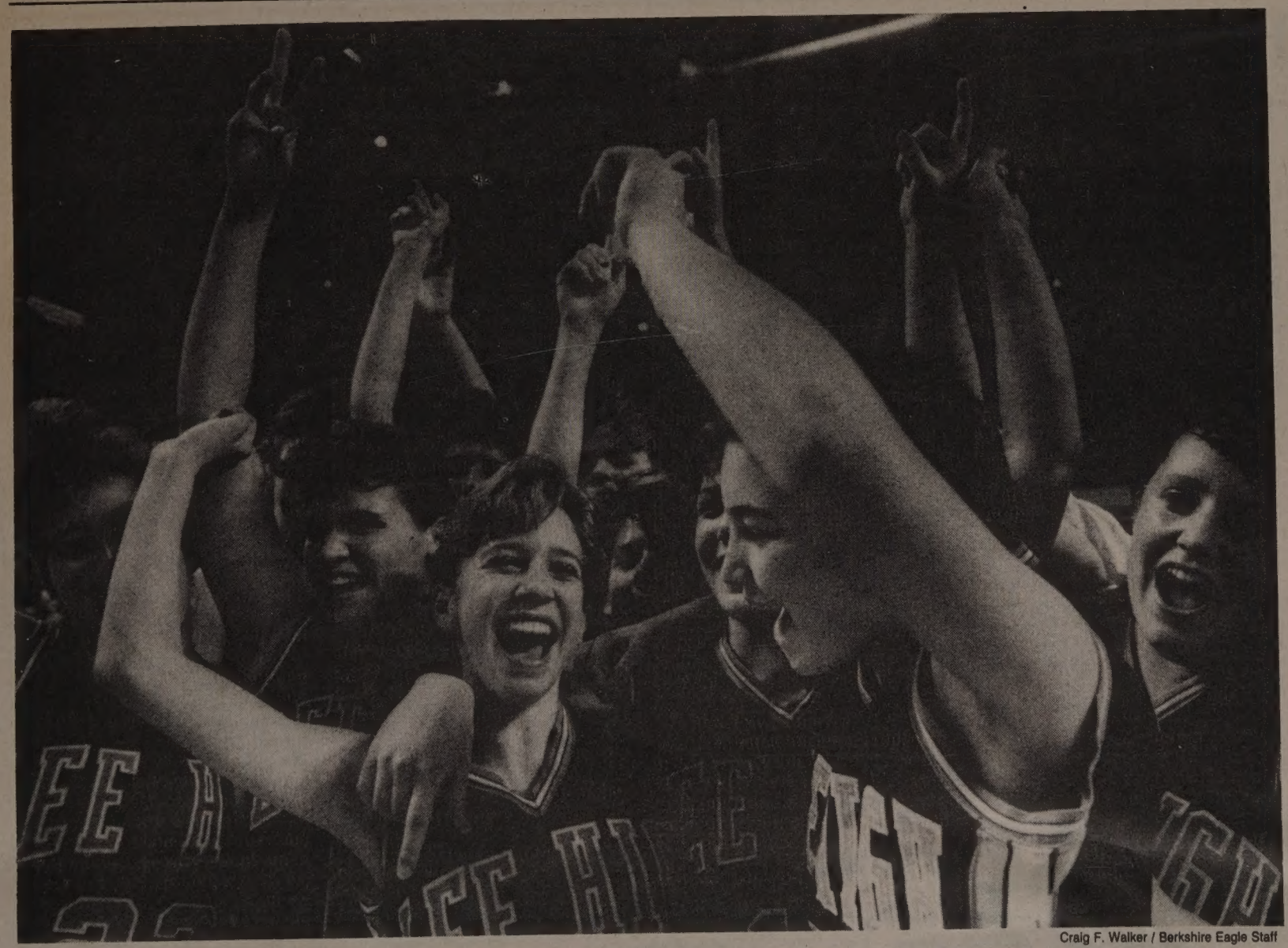
Scrapbook

Book H



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Nothing but smiles show on these Lee High Wildcat faces after yesterday's 54-34 win over Seekong in state Division 3 girls' basketball championship game in Worcester. Among those celebrating the team's second straight state title are, from left, Dina Souza, Michele Naventi, Katie Cinella, Jen Baker and Stacey Lynch.

State tourney notes

The road to the 1990 Division 3 state title game was a long and bumpy one for the Lee High girls' basketball team.

On the heels of their 1989 state championship season, the Wildcats (21-3) didn't even win the Berkshire County League's Southern Division title. They dropped two regular-season games to South rival Lenox, battling injuries and illness all the while.

"The low point in the season was on the bus up to St. Joe [on Jan. 11]," reflected Lee coach Tom Cinella, following his team's 54-34 victory over Seekonk in yesterday's state championship game. "We couldn't field a starting team because Michele Naventi had a badly sprained ankle, [daughter] Katie [Cinella] had fractured hand, Marcie Skowron had a stress fracture and asthma, and Jen Finegan said she might be through for the season. Four of jayvee players had the flu."

Add to that, two players who left the team earlier in the season, and suddenly, the lineup that had looked so formidable at the start of the season appeared fragile at best.

Yet, the Wildcats won the remainder of their regular-season games, save the two Lenox games, in very convincing fashion, then raised their play a notch in the tournament.

"It's just a tremendous accomplishment and a total credit to the kids," said Cinella. "They worked hard in practice and got themselves into a position to be in this game. The measure of a great team is how they react to difficult situations, and they rallied from adversity."

•

Yet, another rallying point for the Lee High girls was their 2-0 loss to Masconoment in last fall's soccer state championship game.

"I think it was a learning experience," said junior Jessie McManmon. "We may have been a little overconfident in soccer, and we weren't as intense [in the championship game]."

They were not, however, about to make the same mistake twice.

"All week long, a lot of parents and friends were saying, 'Easy game,' " said McManmon. "We were trying to tell them we were looking forward to a hard game and we weren't going to overlook anything."

When sophomore guard Kate Cinella overheard some of the Seekonk players talking about how glad they were to be at the Centrum, she didn't pay attention.

"That's what the other team said in soccer," she remembered, "and then they came out and clobbered us."

•

NESN telecast yesterday's Division 3 final live at 10:45 a.m., and the network will be rebroadcast the game on Sunday, March 25 at 8 a.m.

•

Results from yesterday's state title games at the Centrum were as follows:

Division 1

Boys: Cambridge Rindge & Latin 82, Worcester Burncoat 60
Girls: Bridgewater-Raynham 58, Fitchburg 37

Division 2

Boys: Salem 68, Gardner 58
Girls: Milton 76, Oakmont 59

Division 3

Boys: Smith Academy 60, Mission 50
Girls: Lee 54, Seekonk 34

The Berkshire Eagle

All-Berkshire wrestling / B2
Everhart / B5
Scoreboard / B6
Real Estate / B20
Puzzle / B20

SPORTS

Sunday, March 18, 1990

Lee girls are champs again, 54-34

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

The joy of victory is shared by Lee High teammates Jessie McManmon (25), Katie Cinella (10) and Dina Souza as they celebrate yesterday's 54-34 win over Seekonk in state Division 3 girls' basketball championship game in Worcester.

Wildcats' defense stymies Seekonk in state Div. 3 final

By Carol Sliwa
Berkshire Eagle Staff

WORCESTER — No one was shaking their heads in bewilderment after the Lee High girls' basketball team shut down Seekonk 54-34 yesterday morning in the Division 3 state championship game at the Centrum.

When the hot topic of conversation is the lone field goal the opposing team's leading scorer made, the reason for the victory is quite clear.

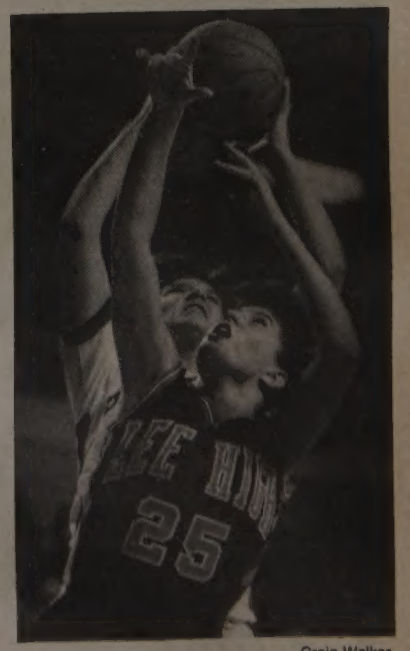
Bolstered by a tenacious man-to-man defense that would have made the Detroit Pistons proud, the Lee High girls became the first Berkshire County basketball team to win back-to-back state titles.

"In practice," said senior tri-captain Marcie Skowron, "we only worried about defense. We never worried about offense."

"We concentrate on defense," added junior Jessie McManmon, who had a team-high 16 points and 15 rebounds, "because defense can win a game more than the offense can."

The Wildcats (21-3) held Seekonk's chief offensive threat, 4-foot-11½ sophomore point guard Kim Lynch, to four points — a total that fell 15.6 points off her season average and 20.6 points lower than her tournament mark.

LEE, continued on B4



Craig Walker

Lee's Jessie McManmon (25) battles for rebound during state final. She had 16 points and 15 rebounds in victory.

Small in numbers, Lee wins big

State title is latest chapter in success story

Eagle 3-20-90 Pg. A1

By Carol Sliwa
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Just over a year ago, Lee High School hadn't won a state championship in any sport.

Then, on March 18, 1989, the Lee girls trounced Norwell 61-35 in the Division 3 state title game at the Worcester Centrum.

Last Saturday, they beat Seekonk 54-34 for the school's second state championship. In so doing, Lee also became the only Berkshire County basketball team to win two consecutive state titles.

How did it happen, in a town with a population of only 6,020 and a high school of only 336 students?

"Hard work," says Lee High basketball coach Tom Cinella, "and good athletes."

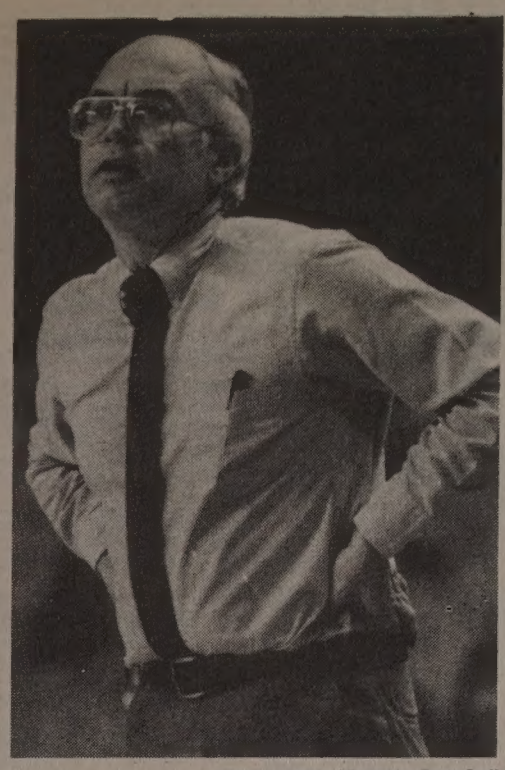
Versatile athletes

True enough, most of the starters on this year's basketball team have excelled in other sports. Last fall, the school's girls' soccer team advanced to the Division 2 state title game, falling to Masconomet 2-0 for its only loss of the season.

Senior Marcie Skowron, Berkshire County's Athlete of the Year, was co-Most Valuable Player in the county's soccer league. Juniors Jessie McManmon and Michele Naventi also made the All-Berkshire soccer team, and sophomore Kate Cinella was an All-Southern Division selection. Naventi, Cinella and the basketball team's sixth player, Stacey Lynch, also play softball, and McManmon is on the tennis team in the spring.

With such versatile athletes, not surprisingly, the team is well-balanced.

"A lot of teams have a star and the other players fade into the background," says McManmon, the basketball and soccer team's leading scorer. "We've never had a star. Our coaches in basketball and soccer really stress that. None of us really thinks we're better than the other. I think any one of us could be the high scorer in any of the games."



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Lee girls' basketball coach Tom Cinella studies the court as his team defeats Seekonk Saturday in the state Division 3 championship game.

However, athleticism isn't the only reason for the Lee High girls' basketball team's success. A high level of skill is also necessary, and the present crop of Lee athletes all had the benefit of participating in an intensive youth program run by the Lee Youth Association.

"These kids were successful with teams in the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades," noted Coach Cinella, "and they played a large number of games."

Thanks to a host of supportive parents and adults willing to devote time and energy to them, the girls eventually reaped reward after reward.

When Skowron and Lynch were 5th graders, their St. Mary's team won the Western Mass. Catholic Youth Organization championship. Two years later, the 7th-8th grade team reached the New England CYO finals.

"We all got used to each other," says Skowron, "and we became good friends because of it."

They also became tournament-tough players. During the course of that season, the team even traveled as far as Washington, D.C., for a tournament.

"At that age, it was a pretty good experience for them," said Tom Biasin, who coached the team with another former Lee High player, Jim Feeley. "Playing teams around here so much, you can get too comfortable."

Nevertheless, one of the most competitive teams the Lee girls would face was a team from Great Barrington. Many of those Golden Knights players eventually moved on to the Monument Mountain girls' basketball team that compiled a 63-4 record during the past three years, winning three Berkshire County and two Western Mass.

LEE, continued on D6

Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

STATE DIVISION 3 CHAMPION for the second consecutive year, the Lee High girls' basketball team recently completed its season with a 21-3 record. Team members are, from left: KNEELING — tri-captains Marcy Naventi, Marcie Skowron and Stacey Lynch. MIDDLE ROW — team manager Jesse Davis, Jessie McManmon, Shannon Driscoll, Michele Naventi and manager Katie Salinetti. BACK ROW — assistant coach Jim Feeley, ball boy Jim Salinetti, assistant coach Jim Perkins, Sharon Heath, Jen Baker, Allison Forfa, Sheila Collins, Jennifer Finnegan, Dina Souza, Kate Cinella, head coach Tom Cinella and assistant coach Brian Whitman.

Eagle 3/20/90

History project on view in Lee

Eagle 3/19/90 Pg. B4

LEE — An exhibit titled "History All Around Us: An Oral History of Lee," containing material gained through interviews conducted by students at Lee Central and St. Mary's, is on view at the Lee Library during March. Photographs and objects pertaining to Lee in the first half of the century are displayed.

Seventy-five students from Lee Central's 8th grade and St. Mary's 7th grade, trained by Berkshire County Historical Society curator Barbara Allen, interviewed their relatives and neighbors, recording these sessions and, in some cases, borrowing objects to be photographed.

Teachers who were involved in the project were Ellen Morelli of St. Mary's and Mark DeVoti and Paul Belknap of Lee Central. Also participating were students from the Lee talented and gifted class, under the direction of their teacher, Cynthia Smith.

Among the items on display are ice tongs, old yearbooks, quotes from the oral history tapes, and photographs that trace the history of Lee schools.

The project is funded in part by the Massachusetts Council on Arts and Humanities and is one of only a few in Berkshire County to be funded on account of budget constraints. The council provided $4,985; the society provided the remainder of the $6,647 total cost of the project.

Unanswered questions for Tenaska

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

The Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Council held a public hearing in Lee Feb. 15 to discuss the proposed 120-megawatt power plant to be built by Tenaska.

Over 400 residents attended this five-hour meeting and approximately 70 people spoke. The speakers ranged from our state representative, selectmen, health department officials, doctors, lawyers, engineers, business people, teachers, mill workers, housewives, etc.

Tenaska had the opportunity to answer the townspeople's questions at this meeting, but they did not. To this date we have not received any answers to our questions, which concern safety, noise, pollution, traffic, gas line, high voltage lines, building, smokestacks, sewer use, employment, property values, high utility cost, chemical spills and emergency evacuation plan.

This is the only public meeting the Massachusetts Siting Council allows individuals who wish to become an intervenor. Being an intervenor allows you to be involved in the entire process with the Siting Council. Twenty-one people, including two of our selectmen and an official from the Tri-Town Health Department, applied for intervenor status. Tenaska has asked the Siting Council to deny all 21 of the requests.

If this power plant is approved, it will affect the entire town of Lee forever. I don't know why Tenaska doesn't want the residents to be involved. The residents should be involved and we should receive answers to all of our questions in a timely manner. After all, we do live in Lee.

TIM GRAY

Lee Eagle 3-19-90 Pg. A6

Lee appropriates $26,000 to start recycling program

Eagle 3-20-90 Pg. B4

LEE — With little discussion, town meeting representatives last night unanimously appropriated $26,000 to establish a recycling program in town.

The town had agreed in 1987 to begin a recycling program and then passed a recycling bylaw at last year's annual town meeting. Last year also, the town notified the state that it wishes to become an official user of the materials recycling facility in springfield.

Last night at a special meeting at the Central School, Recycling Committee Chairman Maynard Clemens said recycling would save 20 to 40 percent of the town landfill annually. Department of Public Works Chairman Joseph Castronova added that such a savings would mean an extra three or four years of life for the dump. This saving of landfill space was key, Castronova said, because the DPW estimates that building a new landfill would cost $7 million.

The $26,000, Clemens, said, would cover the cost of site preparation and an attendant. The recycling facility would be located at the town landfill, he said.

At a recent Selectman's meeting, Clemens pointed out that if Lee did not appropriate the funds, the town might be kicked out of the program. Several towns were still on a waiting list to get into the program, he said.

The money, he said, would come from the town's free-cash account.

Residents will be asked to recycle paper, glass and metal. The town has already recieved 1,700 recycling containers for that purpose.

Church and state

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

The story about Skipp Porteous taking on the religious right in the March 9 Berkshires Week was unbelievable. Contrary to what was written, Porteous is not really interested in maintaining the separation of church and state. Instead, his primary goal is to bash his ex, the Christian church.

His focus is aimed exclusively at Christianity. Any hint that a Christian is stepping near the church/state line and he is there, ready to fight. Yet when other religions cross that line, he ignores it.

For example, yoga is an integral part of the Hindu religion. All the prominent gurus teach a form of yoga, and Hindu literature explains that the path to oneness with God is via yoga. Yoga classes are taught throughout America in schools and colleges. This is clearly a widespread violation of the church/state rules, yet where is Skipp Porteous? He is not there because yoga is not Christian.

Where was he in October when public school children celebrated Halloween the entire month with scary stories of witches? Real-life witches are practitioners in Satanic religions, and Halloween is the most "holy" day of the church of Satan, which happens to be a legal, established religion in this country with churches in every state of the union.

Skipp Porteous is simply a Christian hater who uses the church/state situation as a veil to hide behind as he shoots his arrows at the church of Jesus Christ.

PAUL ZERRA

Lee Eagle 3/20/90

Zukowski says proposed funding would cost schools 20 teachers

Eagle 3-20-90 Pg. B4

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski told the Selectmen and the Finance Committee last night that present funding plans for the next fiscal year would cost the Lee School District about 20 teachers.

Zukowski, as well as about 50 parents and teachers, appeared at a joint meeting of the Selectmen and Finance Committee to request that the Selectmen place an override question on the ballot for the annual town meeting in May.

The board did not decide one way or another, although Selectmen Chairman Diane P. Roosa said she was in favor of placing an override question on the ballot and letting the town meeting representatives decide whether to override the budget.

Finance Committee Chairman Robert B. Trask told the Selectmen that his committee expects a cut of $300,000 in state aid next year, from $1.9 million to $1.3 million. Because of that, he said, the committee is now recommending a 2.8 percent cut for every town department.

Such a cut, Zukowski explained, would probably have the most impact on his department. A 2.8 percent decrease, he said, translates into a reduction of about $118,000 from last year's budget. Because the district's insurance costs, contracted fees and salaries have increased overall, he said, such a cut below level-funding "would cripple the schools. Supplies would not be available to many teachers, textbooks would be at a minimum, audio-visual equipment would be at a minimum."

Zukowski said he submitted a budget for the Lee School District that provided for a 4 percent increase in gross expenses. This, he said, is the lowest increase for any school district in the county. As an example, he said the Berkshire Hills Regional School District's budget is up 12 percent, Southern Berkshire's 9.3 percent and Lenox's 7 percent.

20 percent staff cut

"I'm at 4 percent and asked to go down," he said. "We cannot operate the schools at that level. We will have reduced our staff by more than 20 percent."

Lee employs 71 teachers.

Selectman William D. Bean told Zukowski that the Selectmen were not anti-education.

"We're not anti-anything," he said, "but we have to try and get by with what we have. This isn't easy for us, either. But we're facing tough times."

Bean added that town employees have agreed to a wage freeze, while teachers have not, opting instead for layoffs.

Trask said that even with a 2.8 percent cut across the board, the town will be stripping away its free cash account to zero.

"We're operating without a cushion," he said.

Laurie Forfa

Winners all, trophy or no

LEE

There was a lot of celebrating in the little town under the steeple when the Lee High School girls' basketball team brought home its second Division III state basketball championship in as many years. Fire whistles blew, congratulation banners appeared and orange and black balloons popped up all over town. Fans knew a lot of hard work had gone into making this success story a reality.

And as the tale of the regular Berkshire season preceding this remarkable accomplishment unfolded with its ups and downs, its illnesses and injuries (from sprains and fractures to season-ending injuries), it became even more apparent that determination and spirit held these young athletes together. It became obvious that their coach had built a *team*, a team not only capable of savoring victory, but a team that could take adversity in stride, a team where the members were clearly committed to helping each other and pulling together for a common goal.

Perhaps most dramatic was not this team's response to the 16 regular season wins (that joy is easily understood; winning is fun), but its handling of some key losses that really brought out character and sportsmanship.

Eagle 3-24-90

Some key losses brought out character and sportsmanship.

Pg. B1

After an early season loss to Monument Mountain, a team Lee was always trying to beat, the Wildcats must have read this from Wendell Phillips: "What is defeat? Nothing but education. Nothing but the first step to something better."

The Lee players seemed even more determined to hone their skills and raise their level of play. The Spartans set a formidable standard in the county, but the Lee girls viewed it as a challenge. They knew they were good, but also that they would get better, much better, before this season was over. Their coach had the knowledge, and they had the will to excel.

Two regular-season losses to neighboring Lenox didn't discourage the Wildcat cagers either, but rather fueled the same fire as the Monument game. From momentary disappointment the Lee girls took valuable lessons they would apply later in the season — lessons about patience on offense, better shot selection and "playing our game."

Facing the tough and talented Lenox squad and county scoring leader Samantha Herrick in the final round of the Western Mass. Tournament, the Lee girls put those losses behind them and showed what they had learned from their previous encounters, prevailing 50-31.

Lee residents are proud of their team, win or lose. They appreciated the hard work and pride and sportsmanship displayed during the season. They also remember three other schools that projected images of winners and models to follow.

In the regular season the girls from McCann drew admiration from Lee fans. Down nearly 60 points in a league game, the Lady Hornets *never gave up*. They played as hard in the waning moments of the game as they had all night, using every bit of time on the court to build their skills.

Rockwell's barber says goodbye to Lee

Eagle 3-24-90

■ BARBER, from B1

for a woman to come to him for a haircut. He admits he was nervous at first, but now cuts hair for three or four women daily with the same ease as he does men.

"With all these hairdressers around these days, I feel very good if a woman comes in," he said. "I know I'm not good-looking, so it must be my work."

Although he has been cutting hair for 40 years in Lee, Cibelli's barbering career began 55 years ago, when he worked in his father's barbershop in Scotland.

"I was a lather boy," he recalled. "Barbers did a lot of shaving in those days and I went around and lathered the customers' faces."

Now, he said, he doesn't do much shaving.

"Well, if a fellow comes in and he's got two broken arms and I've known him for 40 years, I'll shave him," he said with a laugh.

When Cibelli was old enough, he enlisted in the army. He was his company's barber during World War II.

In 1950, he was on the Queen Mary, en route to the United States. His destination was Chicago, where he hoped to make his fortune. Instead, a fellow passenger told him about a town in Berkshire County he planned to visit. Cibelli stopped over in Lee and never left.

And that, for Scottie Cibelli, is the hard part now. He plans to work for his son, who is opening a barbershop in Dennisport on Cape Cod. He insists he will only work lunches. Oh, and weekends maybe. And perhaps fill in when one of the "boys" is on vacation. He is, after all, retired and he intends to take it easy.

But it has been difficult saying goodbye.

Yesterday afternoon, he handled a steady stream of customers easily, talking, joking and laughing with them — until it was time to leave.

"You'll be in one more time?" he asked one. "I'd like to see you again before I go." The customer promised he'd be back.

"I may have to send out for some handkerchiefs," he said, blinking several times. "I guess I should have left the way I came in: without a fuss.

"But this place and these people have never been a job. Never. They've been my life."

Daniel Pearl / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Mead President David L. Klausmeyer seeks to increase international sales.

Mead sales rise 12%; exports make gains

Eagle 3-24-90 Pg. B1

By Daniel Pearl
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Mead's Specialty Paper Division increased its sales 12 percent last year by boosting its efficiency and its international presence, said David L. Klausmeyer, division president.

The division, which produces decorative laminated paper used in wall paneling and countertops, also increased its domestic market share, Klausmeyer said. But with U.S. residential and commercial construction slumping, Klausmeyer said his division's domestic market is flat, and sales will probably drop slightly this year.

"We're going to have a market that is very demanding on us, and we're going through a detailed review of how we can become more effective in quality, service and cost so as to protect our market position," he said.

Seeks improvement

The Specialty Paper Division, which employs 350 people at two mills in Lee, boosted its capacity 50 percent in the mid-80s and has been driving for quality improvement and new markets in recent years. In an interview, Klausmeyer reported the following successes:

► Exports grew to 20 percent of the division's total sales. Mead's market includes Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Colombia, Mexico, Canada and most European countries. "Our goal is to take sales on an international basis even further," Klausmeyer said. The company has hired a full-time representative for the European specialty paper market and has opened a new warehouse in Holland. Klausmeyer said Mead is keeping an eye on Eastern Europe, too.

European competitors are beginning to move into North America, however. Klausmeyer said, "There's a need to understand that you truly are competing in a global market, and it includes your own back yard."

► Mead spent more than $4 million last year on quality improvements here and will probably maintain that pace this year, Klausmeyer said. Most of that money was for a new computer system that helps keep the paper within tight weight, color and grade limits.

Mead managers call their employees "associates" and enlist them as agents in "CI" — Continuous Improvement. A report to associates this week notes gains in reducing the paper's dirt content and in eliminating color and weight inconsistencies. Also, lost production time dropped 20.4 percent, according to the report, and waste dropped to a record low.

► Employment rose slightly, to 350, as Mead increased its technical and administrative staff. Klausmeyer said he anticipates no increases in the work force this year, however.

► The division increased its electronic ties with customers. In one instance, a new computer program allows customers to get faster cost estimates. In another, a customer's computer communicates directly with Mead's to schedule orders. The division also began a new bar code labeling system to help track the shipment of paper rolls.

Overall, Mead's sales increased 3 percent in 1989, to $1.08 billion, half. A proposed $75 million cogeneration plant, to be built by O'Brien Cogeneration Inc. of Philadelphia, would provide steam for Mead's Laurel and Willow mills on Route 102, and 75 megawatts of electricity for Massachusetts Electric Co.

Although proposed cogeneration plants have stumbled into local opposition in Pittsfield, Williamstown and Lee, Klausmeyer said he is hopeful that O'Brien's plant will win community support.

The company, based in Ohio, reported earnings million, down 28 perce 1988. Mead does not re earnings of each division.

Klausmeyer said his raw materials costs con rise last year, forcing it prices. Because the mar not bear price increases said, cutting production essential.

Mead hopes to use generation to cut its fuel

Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Longtime Lee barber Achille 'Scottie' Cibelli gives customer Ralph Hart a trim.

Barber's farewell bittersweet

Gazette 3-24-90 Pg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — In many ways, retirement after 40 years of barbering in town will be the unkindest cut of all for Achille "Scottie" Cibelli.

"I have to get away," he said in his rich Scottish burr. "Otherwise, I'll see all my customers whose hair I should be cutting walking down the street. I wouldn't be able to retire."

After a couple of false starts, Cibelli plans to retire in about a month. But he admits his problem with retiring is that he loves his job too much. A compact, cheerful man, he is 70 and looks 50.

"It keeps me young," he said, laughing. "The people I've met along the way have been wonderful. I wouldn't change one second of it."

Cibelli's shop is a cozy space, with two barber chairs situated in front of a wall-to-wall mirror. An old-fashioned cash register sits off to one side. Hair sprays, creams and gels adorn the shelf in front of the mirror.

If Cibelli seems to embody Norman Rockwell's vision of the small-town barber, it's not surprising. He was, after all, Rockwell's barber for many years. He was the subject of several Rockwell paintings, several of which are tacked onto the wall.

Cibelli's prices are carefully posted for the customer to see, and in this day of $20 haircuts, a visitor feels as though he is in a time warp. Regular haircuts are $6; boys under 12, $5.50. A beard trim is $5; $2.50 with a haircut. Written in fi bold letters is a recent addition: FL TOPS, $7. Crew cuts are back.

Although the prices have risen, Cib sees little difference between cutt hair now and barbering 20, 30 or 40 ye ago.

"The only difference is that so people only come in three or four tin a year now," he said. "In the '50s a '60s, we had 12 barbers in town. Peo cut their hair twice a month, sometim more often. If they did that now, yo see more barbers. But as a trade, hasn't changed much."

Cibelli was one of the first area bu bers to begin cutting women's hair ba in 1953. He said he considers it an hon

BARBER, continued on P

$2.2 million lawsuit filed against Foxhollow resort

Page A1

Eagle By Daniel Pearl 3-25-90
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A partner in the Foxhollow development has added a $2.2 million lawsuit to the claims against the resort, and another partner said bank foreclosure may be the only way to resolve Foxhollow's tangled debts now.

"There are too many attachments for anybody to buy it, other than through foreclosure," said Donald I. Altshuler of Lenox, who helped build the former Foxhollow School for Girls into a massive condominium and spa complex during the '80s and then sold out most of his interest in Foxhollow Wellness Spa last year.

"Instead of working with negotiations, everybody has been fighting for themselves, and they'll probably force it into foreclosure," he said.

By the end of January, twelve creditors had filed claims against the 230-acre estate [See chart, page A10.].

The largest is Bank of New England, which began foreclosure in December, citing $5.5 million in unpaid loans.

Now, Julius Manger Jr., who was Altshuler's partner in The Center Inc., is suing The Center in Berkshire Superior Court, saying the corporation owes him $1 million for unpaid loans and consulting fees, and $920,000 for Manger's 50 percent stake in the corporation.

Manger, of Greenwich, Ct., got a $2.2 million attachment on The Center's land March 15.

Foreclosure auction

Bank of New England officials said this past week they are still pursuing a foreclosure auction. In a foreclosure sale, the top bidder gets the property free of any attachments or liens, and creditors are paid only if there is enough money left after the people holding mortgages are paid.

Altshuler said he doesn't object to an auction, even though it would probably wipe out his own claims against the spa partnership.

The Center Inc. holds a mortgage on the land for the $15 million Foxhollow Wellness Spa, which opened last April and closed five months later.

The Center is also a limited partner in the wellness spa, which was controlled by financier Dale B. Krieger of New York. Dr. Stephan Rechtschaffen, president of the Omega Institute in

NEW CLAIMS, continued on A10

Photo by Mark Mitchell

Touring Foxhollow yesterday were Joel A. Less, left, president of Berkshire Housing, and David M. Wolf, chairman of the Ponds Association board of directors.

Time-share owners go independent

By Daniel Pearl
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — When a fire destroyed the recreation center at Foxhollow in 1987, the owners of the Ponds at Foxhollow time-share condominium units had a tough decision to make.

They could use their $550,000 share of the insurance settlement to buy into developer Donald Altshuler's plans for a plush new $15 million health facility, or they could split off on their own.

The Altshuler route was tempting to some time-share owners: besides a large pool and weight facility, they would get such luxuries as herbal wraps, loofah rubs, facial massages

OWNERS, continued on A10

Time-share owners go independent

The Foxhollow owners now have a new $900,000 clubhouse with a working sauna and whirlpool.

■ OWNERS, from A1

and flotation tanks, with less sweat and less money than a separate clubhouse would take.

But it was worrisome, too: if the development went bad, they could be stuck with no recreation at all, despite having paid as much as $12,000 for a one-week share in a two-bedroom unit.

In July 1988, the owners voted overwhelmingly to break off on their own. And two years later, they have a new $900,000 clubhouse with a working sauna and whirlpool, an indoor pool and an outdoor pool, a video game room, a conference room and a weight room.

Yesterday, guests came by to use the clubhouse, and a pair of ducks played in the ponds, which were built by the Vanderbilt family, lit by the Westinghouse family, and recently cleaned and dredged by the owners association.

Across the ponds, uncompleted condominiums and a locked health facility were closed down in September and are in limbo now as creditors pursue their debts.

And as the Ponds Association's board of directors began their monthly meeting, David M. Wolf, chairman, showed off some letters of thanks from time-share owners.

"How right you were," wrote a New York man who had favored joining Altshuler.

"At long last our investment is not going down the tubes but is here to stay for our enjoyment," a Brooklyn couple wrote.

"I go like this all the time," joked board member Kevin P. Kavanagh of Springfield as he patted his back with his left hand.

Douglas M. Kleine, director of research for Community Associations Institute, a national condominium education organization in Alexandria, Va., said time-share buyers can get burned if there is a bank mortgage on the property that takes precedence over their lease.

"There have been a few cases in Florida where the time-share developer defaulted on a mortgage, and the bank took over the property and wiped out their right to use it," he said.

Common practice

But Stephen Cutillo, vice president of Vacation Sales of Laconia, N.H., which has been selling off the remaining intervals at Foxhollow since 1986, said it is common practice now for developers to get the bank to agree in writing not to touch sold time-share intervals if the loan goes bad.

Some states actually require such an agreement now.

The 48-unit Ponds at Foxhollow, developed as time shares in 1981, are protected from the Bank of New England's foreclosure, according to Cutillo, Altshuler, the Bank of New England and Donald Paulson of Boston, who represents the time-share owners.

A more common problem than bank seizure occurs when a development goes under before the amenities are completed.

"Time-share owners don't have any more rights than people in a single-family subdivision do if a builder goes bankrupt and doesn't put in a road or finish the swimming pool," Kleine said.

He said somebody who buys out a development doesn't have to live up to the promises of the original developer.

said, but more difficult to come by.

"Since folks aren't there very often, there is not as much interest in participating in the governance," he said. "Also, there are so many owners. A 50-unit condo is a 2,500-unit time share. So more power ends up resting with the contractor."

Wolf said Foxhollow's Ponds Association manages to attract 300 to 400 people to its annual meetings, though.

And while Altshuler still owns about 200 intervals acquired from people who failed to pay their installments, the Ponds Association doesn't recognize those as voting intervals.

First separation

The Ponds Association first separated itself from the developers in 1986. Unhappy with the way the project was being maintained, the owners hired Berkshire Housing Services of Pittsfield to manage the units.

Joel A. Less, president of Berkshire Housing, said he is impressed with the dedication and thoroughness of the board members.

For example, he said they are ordering a study to predict when various parts of the clubhouse will need to be replaced, and have set aside $200,000 in reserve.

The association has a budget of $726,000, supported mostly by maintenance fees of $250 to $500 per interval.

It also rents out the units of people who have failed to pay their fees, Less said. Finally, each of the 1,800 active owners donated $100 to their association to help finance the clubhouse.

Board members said the spa's closing does affect them, since they cannot use the restaurant there until it reopens, and since they have no assurances that anybody will maintain Foxhollow's roads.

But the Ponds Association is busy planning more improvements, including a playground for owners' children and a new tennis court.

The tennis court is to be built with the remaining money owed by Altshuler, Wolf said. To ensure payment, Paulson got a mortgage of $100,000 on one of Altshuler's buildings last spring.

Attachments on Foxhollow Property

FIRM	AMOUNT	DATE FILED	SERVICE
Lenox Carpet & Tile (Lenox)	$17,510	12-30-88	Floor covering
Polson Electric (Pittsfield)	$16,118	6-11-89	Electrical
Ed Harrington Inc. (Hillsdale, N.Y.)	$26,000	9-25-89	Building materials
Cain, Hibbard, Myers & Cook (Pittsfield)	$110,000	10-5-89	Legal
Country Hills Publishing (Great Barrington)	$5,500	10-13-89	Advertising
Allegrone Construction (Pittsfield)	$167,000	10-30-89	Construction
S.K. Odell Inc. (Great Barrington)	$200,000	11-3-89	Construction
Ginsberg's Institutional Foods (Hudson, N.Y.)	$3,000	11-22-89	Food
C.T. Brigham Paper (Pittsfield)	$5,000	12-7-89	Supplies
Valley Communications Systems (Chicopee)	$4,200	12-26-89	Telephone
Paul Rich & Son (Pittsfield)	$9,000	1-16-90	Furniture
Julius Manger (Greenwich, Conn.)	$2,200,000	3-15-90	Loans, stock

These attachments were each filed against one of, or a combination of, the following: DaleKrieger, Donald I. Altshuler, Foxhollow Wellness Spa Inc., Foxhollow Wellness Spa Limited Partnership, Lakeside Development Corp., Foxhollow Management Corp., The Center Inc., and AKR Limited Partnership. A judge grants an attachment if the person filing a lawsuit is likely to win, and if the defendant's assets are likely to disappear.

Eagle 3-25-90 Pg. C2

Local labor force out

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

The March 12 letter of Richard Tucker took umbrage at my "GE bashing." I cannot in good conscience stand back and pat the company on the back for all it's done here for the past century.

If only some of the attitudes and concern the company once had for its labor market here still remained, I might be inclined to think differently. But my concern is for the present, and that includes the plight of the disenfranchised families whose welfare is being thrown aside like some unwanted toy. Mr. Tucker calls it "bashing." I call it advocacy.

Mr. Tucker implies that if more were done for improving the business climate here, perhaps GE would not pull up stakes. A lot has been done. But it's almost impossible to compete against an area like Puerto Rico where there is a dearth of environmental laws and the cost of labor is extremely cheap.

Notice how GE waited until the last moment to announce that the arrester plant had a new destination. It's an ideal move for a company that has shown little regard for environmental laws, anyway. And all those savings I'm sure will make the plant more "competitive," which translated means big bonuses for the mucky-mucks and the garbage can for the local labor force. Look at what the local labor force has done for GE in the past century.

CHRISTOPHER J. HODGKINS
State representative
Lee

Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Blood sample drawn by Trudy Van Den Heuvel from arm of Melanie Gillmeister may be gift of life for former Lee resident Carl Shirley Jr., who is suffering from leukemia and needs a bone marrow transplant.

140 volunteers tested for transplant match

Eagle 3-26-90 Pg. B1

By Gae Elfenbein
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A case containing 280 vials of blood from "Friends of Carl" is now in Raritan, N.J., where the first of many tests will be performed in the search for a bone marrow donor for former resident Carl Shirley Jr.

The blood was drawn yesterday at the Masonic Temple from 140 people who responded to a plea for donors issued by friends of the family. Shirley's mother, Gladys Shirley of Tyringham, was pleased by the turnout but cautious.

"The odds of finding a match are like winning the lottery," she said.

Her son, 30, a former Lee resident, is suffering from acute leukemia. An actor working and studying in New York when illness struck last year, Shirley has since undergone four series of chemotherapy treatments and remains very ill at New York University Medical Center.

"It came on very suddenly and very heavily," his mother said.

The only cure for her son, and about 10,000 others with similar diseases, lies with an injection of new bone marrow that will replace cancer-ravaged cells with healthy ones.

"It's like a miracle," his mother said of the treatment, which is effective for 60 fatal diseases. "But finding the right kind of marrow is lengthy and expensive."

More tests required

It will be weeks before it is known if one of the 140 who gave blood yesterday can be a possible match. Even if the first series of tests shows a similarity, two more batteries of tests will have to be run.

Those who showed up yesterday seemed willing to make the commitment, said a grateful Charlotte Davis, who organized the event with Joseph M. Toole and Dr. Charles W. Stratton.

"Our goal was to get as many people tested as possible," Toole said. Looking at the crowd he said, "We've only really been at this for three weeks. I think that's remarkable."

The data collected from the blood samples will be filed in the New Jersey Human Leukocyte Antigen Registry and shared with other registries.

"And who knows," Gladys Shirley said. "Maybe the people that were here

VOLUNTEERS, continued on B4

Oak n' Spruce 'gifts' not free, women find

Eagle 3-26-90 Pg. B1

By Daniel O. Bellow
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Thinking she had won a big-screen television set, Michalene Kozlowski of Pittsfield went to Oak n' Spruce to collect it yesterday afternoon but wound up being threatened with arrest for trespassing.

Kozlowski said she complained about not receiving the TV she had been promised through a promotional mailing and two telephone solicitations if she sat through a 90-minute sales pitch about the resort's time-sharing condominiums. When she did as required, Oak n' Spruce manager "Mr. Cobb" told her that those promises had been made by the marketing firm and that he was not responsible for them.

He said she could have the TV if she paid a $48 handling charge, she said, but the post card she got in the mail said "Free," in big letters and nothing about a fee, so she demanded that it be honored.

Linda Illingworth, also of Pittsfield, said she had received a similar post card announcing that she had won $250. She did not receive any money after sitting through the sales pitch and demanded her prize.

According to Kozlowski, the discussio became heated, and Cobb called the Le and Stockbridge police. Kozlowski an her husband, Kyle, and Illingworth an her husband, George, were told by Oa n' Spruce officials that they had 30 min utes to vacate the premises. The polic confirmed that they would be arrested i they did not comply. So they called The Eagle.

By the time a reporter and photogra pher got there, all the people the Koz lowskis and Illingworths had talked t were gone. Michalene Kozlowski and Linda Illingworth told their story in the parking lot, interrupting each other with expressions of outrage.

Cobb had gone

A search of the headquarters building revealed that Cobb and everyone the women had spoken with were gone. The only people left were Gregory Gettner, who said he could not help them because their problem was not with his department, and a woman named Susan Hinman, who described herself as a travel agent.

Upon hearing the story, Hinman said it

GIFTS, continued on B2 (on reverse S

Mark Mitchell / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Michalene Kozlowski, left, and Linda Illingworth watch as travel agent Susan Hinman writes out vouchers for free vacations after the women complained about not receiving gifts at Oak n' Spruce.

140 prospective marrow don

Eagle 3-26-90

■ VOLUNTEERS, from B1

today will match someone else."

Technicians from Rosche Biomedical Laboratories in Schenectady, N.Y., took the samples yesterday. Each vial was carefully labeled and placed in a padded carrying case. The samples were rushed to New Jersey last night.

Only two laboratories in the country perform the complex tests. "It's a highly specialized technique. One mistake on one number and your patient will be a dead duck," Shirley said.

She acknowledges she had no understanding of bone marrow transplants until her son became ill. But now that she is tapped into the network, she said, "No matter how much you think you know, every day you find out more."

But she is still angered that the $60 cost of the first testing must be picked up by the donors. "That doesn't make any sense," she said.

Not everyone yesterday paid $60, and that is why donations have also been sought. Toole said $8,000 had been collected as of yesterday afternoon, and he expected to reach $10,000 by the end of the week. The money will be used to cover the costs of tests elsewhere.

Davis praised the crew of volunteers that helped donors fill out personal medical histories, and the Girl Scouts and Masons who donated lunch, beverages,

Basic Skills: Clarksburg trips, Lee soars

Eagle 3/28/90 Pg. B1

By Raymond J. Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

Just 59 percent of Clarksburg's 6th graders passed the reading test. North Adams saw its elementary scores drop, while Lee's 3rd graders' rose by a cumulative 40 percentage points from the previous year.

All those numbers are included in results of the Massachusetts Basic Skills tests, released Monday by the state Department of Education. A total of 166,247 Massachusetts students took the reading, writing and mathematics tests in Grades 3, 6 and 9 last fall, and results showed the commonwealth's students improved over the previous year.

But some of the figures were hard to swallow locally, and school officials throughout Berkshire County are continuing to digest the results and determine what they mean.

Lee's 3rd grade scores could have been cause for celebration.

"But I'm not going to crow over it," Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski said yesterday. "You could say it's by chance, you could say it's because of the kids — I don't know. What I do know is that we're not doing anything differently."

In North Adams, the figures could be cause for alarm. Of 6th-grade students who took the tests in October, nearly one in four failed to attain the 65 percent passing grade.

"We're going to take a hard look at identifying some of the problems, and problems," said Superintendent Robert W. Maroni. "But I'm certainly not going to panic. We're not about to revamp the whole school system because of one set of test scores."

"We look at them to identify the children who have not passed, we look to see if those children are receiving special programs, and then we plan accordingly," said Marguerite Myers, principal of Clarksburg Elementary School. Clarksburg's scores rose on the 3rd-grade level, but dropped dramatically in Grade 6.

"They might not tell us what we want to hear, but they provide useful information," Myers said.

She said the current 6th-grade class is a "very diverse group." A number of the class' 27 students are receiving special remedial assistance, said Myers, who added the scores were pretty much what she expected.

That 6th grade, however, has been divided into two classes this year after spending three years in one large group due to budget constraints, Myers said.

"That's not an excuse," she added, "but I do think it points up the need for smaller class sizes and more individualized attention. This is one instance where some of the cuts we've made [one teaching post and several teachers' aides] are having a real effect."

BASIC SKILLS, continued on B4

Ups and downs of testing

■ BASIC SKILLS, from B1

Eagle 3-28-90

Florida Elementary School Principal Frederick Bozek said he thought the tests were more useful to large districts than to small ones like his where 11 6th grades took the test.

Hard to assess numbers

"I can see where a large district has to find out which of its kids need help," said Bozek, "but a district our size has already done that. I don't think they're telling us anything we don't know."

In many ways, the numbers are difficult to assess because they include so many variables. Pittsfield, for example, bases its passing percentages on student grades of 80, while the state uses a mark of 65. All figures comparing Pittsfield's percentages against state marks, however, reflect comparable scoring marks.

While it's easy to compare school marks against the state averages, and against figures compiled by the same school district the previous year, more detailed figures match percentages against other districts in a similar "kind of community" — referred to as the KOC.

In KOC divisions, North Adams and Pittsfield are considered by the state Department of Education as "urban centers." Though Pittsfield school officials on Monday expressed concern over a drop in the city's 6th-grade scores — and the fact that the city's percentages fell below state averages using both 80 and 65 percent passing figures — reading and writing results were slightly above the urban-center average.

Using KOC figures, based on a 65-percent passing figure, Pittsfield falls one point below the urban KOC average of 89, and North Adams is 9 points below the 6th-grade urban average in reading.

Comparison scoring

Yet another comparison may be drawn from a figure called the "comparison score band," which calculates a community's demographic makeup and past school district performance.

Pittsfield School Committee member George J. Desnoyers, who serves on two state testing advisory boards, said that using the comparison score band gives a more accurate assessment. Using those figures, Pittsfield's 6th-grade scores fell off the charts.

Despite such complications, some school officials feel the test results point up some very specific needs.

Drops in test scores aren't always cause for alarm. Florida Principal Bozek, for example, took his school's 3rd-grade, across-the-board drops in 3rd-grade scores in stride.

"In the past, we've had 100 percent scores, and we've lost some [state] grant money because of that," Bozek said. "There are grants available for districts that seek money to do some remediation, but when we asked about them, the answer was, 'Sorry, pal. Your kids got 100 and the city of Boston did poorly. They need the money, you don't.' It's a real Catch-22."

Unlike most districts in the state, Florida submits students involved in remedial programs to the basic skill tests. "We're more concerned about seeing where they stand," Bozek said, "than seeing how we stand as a school. If they fail, and bring our average down, maybe we'd be eligible for some of these grants."

Florida's 3rd-grade drop points up another variable common to small districts. Florida's figures, which fell from scores of 100 and 90 to a line of straight 87s, reflect a failure rate of just two students, but only 15 took the tests. Similarly, the fact that two of six Hancock students failed the reading and math tests left that town with a 3rd-grade passing percentage of 67 — between 25 and 28 points below state averages.

"The bottom line is that you have to look at these numbers and determine for yourself what value they have," said Zukowski. "There are other things I put more stock in — like the school assessment tests."

Those exams, the Massachusetts Educational Assessment Program exams, were administered to high school seniors in January, and will be given to 4th and 8th graders next month. Results are due in the fall.

"But these [skills] tests do point up the needs you may have, and they indicate some directions in which you can go," said Maroni. "These things get my attention, but I don't think they're cause for alarm."

Basic Skills in Berkshire Schools

Numbers represent the percentage of pupils who passed test

	READING 1989/'88	MATH 1989/'88	WRITING 1989/'88
STATE			
GRADE 3	94/95	94/93	93/93
GRADE 6	88/87	92/92	95/94
GRADE 9	87/85	88/86	93/90
CLARKSBURG			
GRADE 3	93/90	93/90	86/93
GRADE 6	59/73	63/73	89/95
CENTRAL BERKSHIRE			
GRADE 3	95/96	96/97	93/93
GRADE 6	95/94	95/97	98/97
GRADE 9	89/91	90/94	92/94
FLORIDA			
GRADE 3	87/90	87/100	87/90
GRADE 6	100/100	100/100	100/100
HANCOCK			
GRADE 3	67/75	67/75	83/75
GRADE 6	100/100	100/100	100/100
LANESBORO			
GRADE 3	100/100	100/100	97/97
GRADE 6	86/86	96/93	98/98
LENOX			
GRADE 3	96/98	98/96	89/92
GRADE 6	98/94	100/94	98/97
GRADE 9	82/95	90/97	92/98
NORTH ADAMS			
GRADE 3	93/95	94/93	91/94
GRADE 6	76/82	85/91	89/90
GRADE 9	93/89	91/87	95/88
OTIS			
GRADE 3	86/100	93/100	100/100
GRADE 6	94/100	94/100	100/100
PITTSFIELD			
GRADE 3	98/98	99/97	96/95
GRADE 6	85/85	88/93	94/95
GRADE 9	88/89	90/88	92/93
RICHMOND			
GRADE 3	95/100	95/100	95/100
GRADE 6	94/96	94/96	94/91
SANDISFIELD			
GRADE 3	93/50	93/100	86/100
GRADE 6	100/100	100/100	100/100
SAVOY			
GRADE 3	67/80	100/90	100/90
GRADE 6	100/100	100/100	100/100
WILLIAMSTOWN			
GRADE 3	98/96	96/99	97/96
GRADE 6	93/92	93/97	95/95
ADAMS-CHESHIRE			
GRADE 3	96/97	92/93	95/97
GRADE 6	86/80	90/85	97/95
GRADE 9	93/95	94/96	100/98
BERKSHIRE HILLS			
GRADE 3	97/93	100/94	98/91
GRADE 6	92/93	98/97	96/94
GRADE 9	92/89	90/92	94/95
SOUTH BERKSHIRE			
GRADE 3	97/96	95/92	93/90
GRADE 6	85/96	87/94	88/93
GRADE 9	85/79	85/81	85/95
McCANN			
GRADE 9	87/89	89/89	91/86
MOUNT GREYLOCK			
GRADE 9	93/97	93/94	95/97

All percentages based on passing grades of 65

Lee voters to be given choice of an override or tax-base hike

Eagle 3/28/90 Pg. B5

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — After considerable discussion, the Selectmen voted 2-1 Monday to allow a question to be placed on the May election ballot for either an override of the tax levy limit or an exclusion of $236,000 from the tax base.

The vote was to do one or the other pending a discussion with the Finance Committee on which would be the best possible course. The Selectmen will schedule that meeting next week.

Selectman Chairman Diane P. Roosa and Selectman Joseph DuPont both voted for putting the question on the ballot, though both expressed reservations about an override or exclusion. Both also said they believed the voters, not the Selectmen, should decide whether to raise the tax rate.

"Those are the people who put me here," DuPont said. "They should be able to decide."

Selectman William D. Bean dissented, saying he believed the town should live within the confines of Proposition 2½.

The override-or-exclusion question will be placed on the annual election ballot in May. Either choice, to be approved, must pass by a two-thirds majority.

An override differs from an exclusion in that it would raise the level of the town tax base permanently. An exclusion, on the other hand, would raise the tax base for a fixed time. In this case, according to Assistant Treasurer Patricia C. Carlino, the fixed time would be four years, after which the exclusion would be dropped from calculation of the tax base, and the base would drop to a lower level.

Carlino said the exclusion would essentially give the town back much of the state aid it expects to lose.

"It gives us a little more operating room," she said.

No figure has yet been mentioned for the override.

Noise violations

In other business, the board and Building Inspector Robert W. Lester cautioned the attorney for Vallerie Transportation Inc. of Connecticut that the building the company rents would be shut down if reports of noise violations persist.

Lester told attorney Stephen Mathews that he has received complaints of trucks starting up and forklifts operating after midnight. Vallerie is a Connecticut trucking firm that rents a building on Marble Street. Lester said neighbors have been complaining for several months about after-hours operations at the site.

Mathews apologized to the board, said he was agreeable to curtailing the activity and would inform his client.

Lee highway crew faults DPW board

Eagle 3-28-90 Pg. B6

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Members of the town Highway Department have complained of being subjected to extensive scrutiny by the town's Department of Public Works board.

Dennis Kelly, an employee of the Highway Department, told the Selectmen Monday night that DPW members had chastised him and other employees for taking coffee breaks that were longer than 15 minutes and were riding around inspecting them while they were working.

"I mean, it's unreal," he said. "They have worse things to worry about than whether or not we take longer than 15 minutes on our break, don't they?"

Morale in the town garage is low, according to Kelly.

He said he and fellow employees were dismayed to find that the town was contracting services ordinarily performed by them to outside vendors and telling highway employees there was no work. These services included garbage pickup on Main Street and mowing town lawns, he said.

Kelly said the six Highway Department employees decided to take the matter to the Selectmen because they did not believe the DPW board would be responsive to them.

"We just can't talk to them," he said. "They won't listen to us."

DPW Chairman Joseph Castronova admitted that several members did think taking extended breaks "was a problem."

Castronova explained that his board voted to draw up a list of ordinances for the Highway Department after board members discovered a few cans of beer in the refrigerator at the department garage. The ordinances, Castronova said, included prohibiting employees from punching other employees' cards in or out, punishment for tardiness, and more explicit language on breaks and time off.

"We wanted to clarify what was appropriate," he said.

Eagle 3-28-90

Beer from party

Castronova said the Highway Department employees believe these conditions constitute a change in working conditions and they have refused to endorse them.

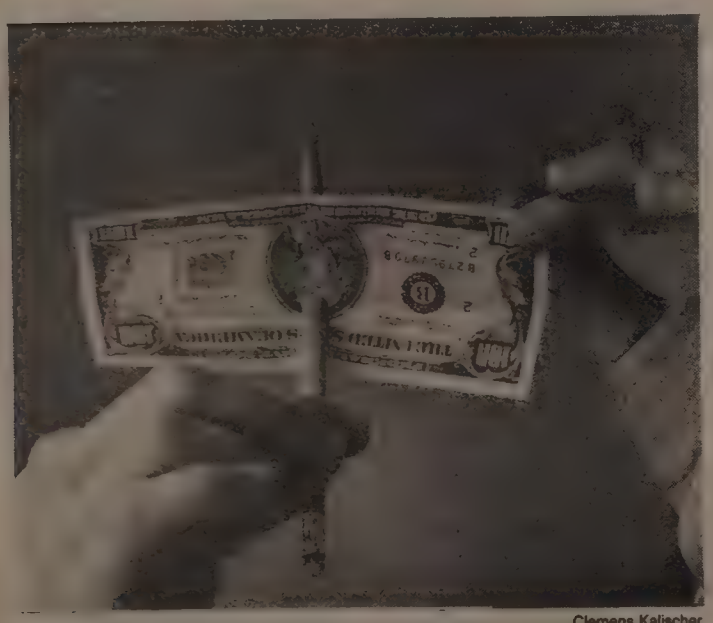
"I think that's the main problem here," he said.

Several employees bristled, however, when Castronova mentioned finding beer in the highway garage and pointed out it was left over from a holiday party.

"We don't drink on the job," Kelly said. "I don't think that was fair."

Selectmen Chairman Diane P. Roosa urged the two sides to try to negotiate their differences. Castronova said he was amenable to another meeting. The Highway Department's union steward, Stanley J. Daoust, suggested that one of the Selectmen could act as a mediator.

Roosa said that if the two groups could not come to agreement, they would have to come back to the Selectmen.



Clemens Kalischer

In Timothy Wenk's illusion a $100 bill is pierced, then ripped by a pencil, only to be amazingly restored intact.

Eagle 3/29/90 Pg. B7

TV magician Copperfield to use Lee man's trick

LEE — He's made the Statue of Liberty disappear, walked through the Great Wall of China, and floated over the Grand Canyon. Have you ever wondered where David Copperfield comes up with all those amazing magic tricks?

Well, on his latest television special, Copperfield will perform an effect invented by a local magician. Timothy Wenk lives in South Lee and does several shows a year in Berkshire County. He invented one of the smallest illusions you'll see Copperfield do on TV.

On the show, which will air on CBS tomorrow night at 8, Copperfield borrows a $100 bill from someone in the audience. He uses a pencil to punch a hole in the bill. The bill is then torn in half by the pencil, yet the $100 bill is magically restored and returned unharmed to its owner.

The trick is called "misled." Wenk has invented many other "miracles" used by other magicians around the world through his company, Metempirical Magic.

Wenk says he and Copperfield first met as teen-agers when they frequented the same magic shop in New York City.

10

Turnpike Authority will double spending for improvements

Eagle 3-29-90 Pg. B1

By Steve Moore
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Massachusetts Turnpike Authority will spend $52 million on bridges and road surface improvements in 1990, twice its previous high. The money will come from increases in tolls that became effective March 1.

Of the $52 million, 76 percent — about $40 million — will be spent west of Route 495, including several major projects in the Berkshires.

To oversee the work, the authority staff, meeting in Lee, voted yesterday to hire six construction inspectors at a cost of $200,000.

Chairman Allan B. McKinnon opened the meeting, which was held at the Senior Citizens Center, with an explanation that the monthly meetings will be held regularly in cities and towns along the turnpike corridor rather than in Boston. The purpose, he said, is to hear the suggestions and complaints of residents and to act on them.

Director of operations John Judge said that $30 million of the scheduled work is already under contract, all to Massachusetts contractors. He said the hope is to have 95 percent of the projects done by in-state contractors. The work will provide 3,120 jobs through the year, he said.

Chief engineer Bruce Grimaldi outlined some of the projects, 11 of which will be in the 60 miles from Palmer west to the New York border. He said new signs will be installed at all barrier plazas, such as West Stockbridge. Bridges in Becket and Russell will be replaced, but the major work will be on the bridge over the Westfield River at Woronoco.

Grimaldi said that during the initial phase of construction, traffic over the bridge will be reduced to one lane in each direction. The contract calls for the first phase to be completed by May 30. Two lanes in each direction will be open for the summer, he said.

Another project will be the rebuilding of the Albany Street bridge in West Stockbridge.

Temporary tollbooths at Lee, Westfield and West Springfield will be replaced with permanent ones.

Fuel tanks at all the turnpike maintenance areas will be replaced this year as well, Grimaldi said. The tanks are 30 years old and at the end of their lives expectancy.

McKinnon said the widening of the West Stockbridge tollbooth, which has been discussed with West Stockbridge officials, is not on the 1990 schedule.

However, he announced later yesterday that the authority plans to create two exit ramps for trucks beyond the West Stockbridge exit to divert tractor-trailers from the center of town. (Related story, Page A1.)

Stockbridge Selectman Mary V. Flynn asked McKinnon to include Stockbridge in any traffic studies that the authority might do. She said tractor-trailer trucks add to the considerable traffic load already in town.

Town officials from West Stockbridge, Lee, Richmond and Stockbridge were invited to the meeting, but only three attended: Flynn, Richmond Selectmen Chairman David Morrison and West Stockbridge Town Clerk Elizabeth Lavalette.

SPENDING, continued on B2

Turnpike

Eagle 3/29/90

■ SPENDING, from B1

Authority Vice Chairman Ann Hershfang outlined a new policy for beautification of the turnpike. She said areas along the highway that remain wet will be mowed less to let them grow more naturally and to reduce ruts caused by mowers.

She said mower heights will be increased in many cases, to strengthen the root systems of the plants. Trees will be thinned to allow birch clumps to prosper, for instance, or to allow evergreens to gain height and girth.

Natural rock formations will be exposed when practical, Hershfang said, as will be bodies of water or attractive views.

Acknowledging the success of wildflower plantings along the length of the road, she said more will be added. Thousands of tulip and daffodil bulbs will be planted as well.

Hershfang asked that town officials or residents who have ideas for beautification contact the authority.

Other authority members at the meeting were secretary-treasurer Richard Wong, general counsel James Aloisi, assistant secretary-treasurer Mary Shaughnessy, director of administration Norma Fenochietti and director of communications Anthony Abuisi.

Mets move Lenfest

Lee native offered job in Kingsport

Eagle 3/30/90 Pg. D1

By Bill Everhart
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Dick Lenfest Jr., the assistant general manager of the Pittsfield Mets last summer, is dropping down a level to go up in the baseball world.

Lenfest will spend this summer as the assistant general manager of the New York Mets' Kingsport, Tenn., affiliate of the Appalachian League, which is a step below the New York-Penn League on the minor league ladder. While the job title is the same as the one he had last year, the duties will be more extensive in the smaller Kingsport operation, which is owned by the New York Mets and community run.

"They want to upgrade the program and do more in terms of attracting advertisers and putting on promotions," said Lenfest. "I don't want to come in and be pushy because I'm an outsider, but I'll try to incorporate some of the things I learned in Pittsfield."

Lenfest, who will graduate from UMass. in May with a bachelor's degree in sports management, served in Pittsfield as an intern last year, learning the ropes of baseball management from the ground up.

At the end of the season, Gerry Hunsicker, New York's director of minor league operations, approached Lenfest with the Kingsport job offer. Lenfest took some time to think it over and accepted around Christmas.

"Without the work I got to do for Mike Casey and Rick Murphy [Pittsfield's co-owners] last season I wouldn't have gotten this opportunity," said Lenfest.

"It just goes to show the impression our people have made in New York," said Casey. "Dick was with us a year and now he's on the way up."

Lenfest, a Lee native whose father is the athletic director at Lee High School, hopes to go to law school next year, but he would like to remain in sports management in some capacity.

"Financially, it's a tough way to make a living, at least starting off," said Lenfest of a career in baseball management. "I'm going to wait and see if I enjoy it. I'm going to Kingsport to pay my dues and do my best."

Price Chopper halts petitioners

Eagle 4/1/90 Pg. A12

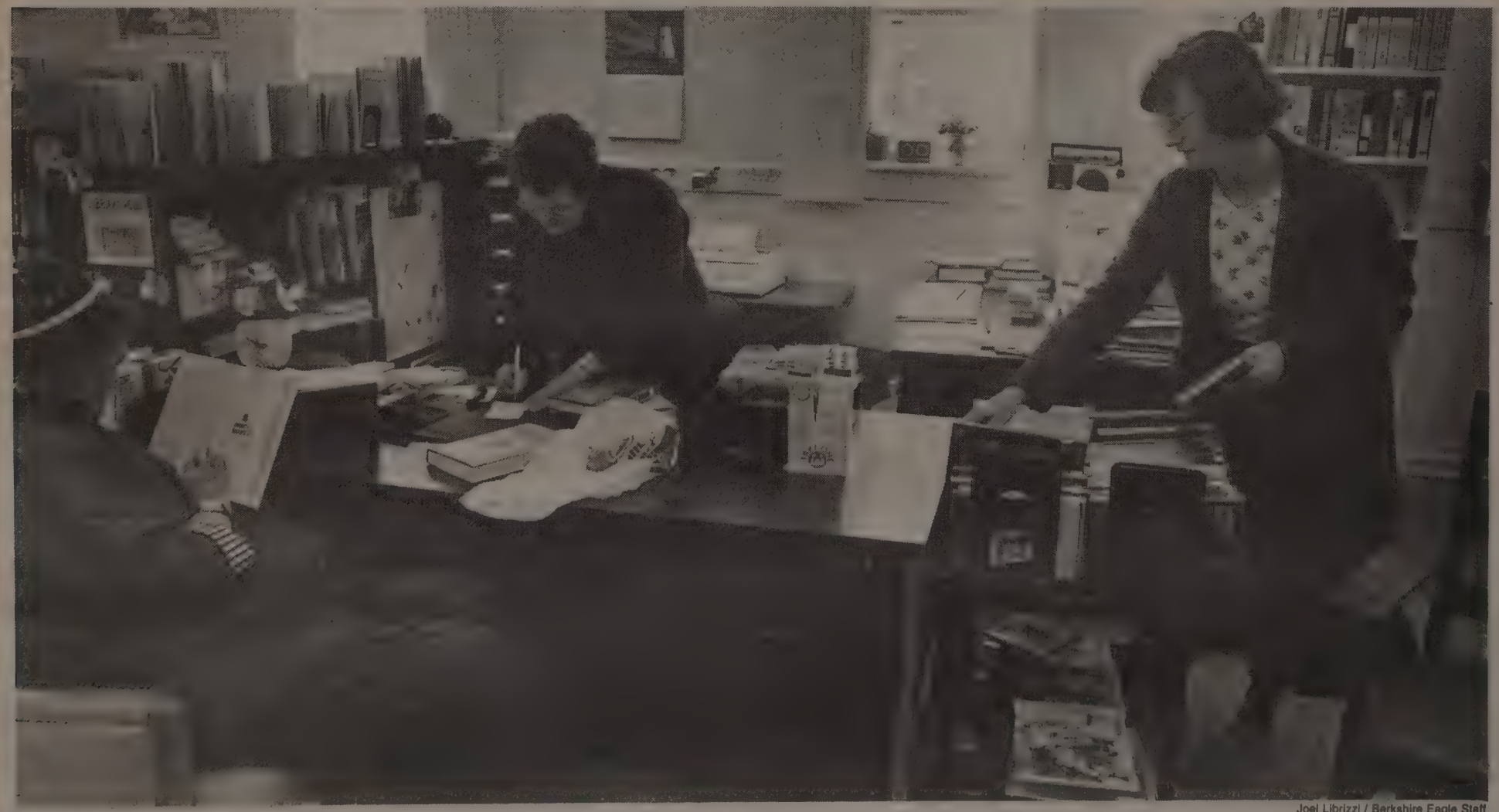
LEE — Supermarkets are the modern meeting place of choice for people handing out petitions or notices. But opponents of a proposed co-generation plant learned yesterday the local Price Chopper is off-limits to them.

Marian Carrington of East Street and Connie McCarthy of Pease Terrace were handing out notices in the Price Chopper parking lot for an upcoming meeting of Concerned Citizens of Lee, which opposes a proposed gas-fired co-generation plant at Kimberly Clark's paper plant. At 1 p.m., a store official asked McCarthy to leave, saying customers had complained, according to Carrington.

"I don't think it's any different than any other fliers people hand out there," Carrington said.

Terry Swegel, a leader of the group, said she had called Price Chopper to protest and was told that political activity wasn't allowed on the store's property. Swegel said she is considering organizing a boycott of the store, which is the only supermarket in Lee.

Reached by telephone, a Price Chopper manager deferred comment to the chain's Schenectady, N.Y., headquarters, which could not be reached yesterday.



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Jean Phillips checks out a book at the Lanesboro Library for Dorothy Collins, seated. At right is librarian Katherine C. Westwood, who has added a number of programs, with special emphasis on children, since she came to the library a year ago.

Eagle 4/1/90 Pg. F1

Libraries cannot live by love alone

By Lynne A. Daley
Berkshire Eagle Staff

On a scale of A to Z, love of books alone apparently won't take today's librarian very far, even in a small town where fiction is the mainstay of the collection.

"Running a library is running a public service, or a business," said Bruce Baker, who heads the state's Western Regional Library System in Hatfield, the agency that provides courses librarians take for certification. "A love of books is not enough, any more than a nurse's love of medicine is enough. There have to be basic standards."

"Education helps you specialize," said John M. Fuchs, director of the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield. "But it also helps you develop your capacity to think. I believe that's probably the most important requirement, to see the big picture."

The more education a librarian has, the better served the public will be, agree a number of county librarians.

College required

The issue came to a head recently when Cheshire librarian Ruth L. Andrew — who had no college degree — stepped down from her post in favor of Mary Hardwick, who holds a bachelor's degree. State regulations hold that in order for Cheshire to qualify for the state's Library Incentive Grants, its librarian must have at least two years of college and must complete five courses in basic library techniques.

The grants, which are administered by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, are distributed, as their name indicates, as both an incentive to municipalities to maintain minimum levels of services and resources and a means by which to improve those services.

Karen Klopfer, Western Regional librarian for the county, holds a master of library science degree. The county bookmobile is run out of her office, and she pays frequent trips to the county's libraries, serving as consultant on a variety of issues from budgeting to inventory.

"I think the people in Cheshire are sincerely proud of the library they have," she said, "but they haven't looked around and seen the possibilities. A lot of it is expectation — what you want out of a library, how much you want to stretch."

Standards for the librarians are based on the population of the individual city or town. The highest level, for

LIBRARY, continued on F6

Please see next page

Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Georgia Massucco, head librarian in Lee, is sorting and weeding out books, a process that every collection needs on a continuing basis. Massucco has a master's degree in library science.

Eagle 4/1/90 Pg. F6

Librarians set up many new programs

those places with a population over 50,000, requires a master's degree plus supervisory experience.

In the case of Cheshire, the maximum amount of grant money involved would be about $2,500, a nominal amount that becomes even smaller when the new librarian's higher salary is figured in. Reportedly, Andrew earned $67.50 a week for her 15 hours of work, compared to $97.50 for Hardwick. The difference in salaries translates to $1,650 in a year.

"That grant will barely cover when she takes that series of five workshops," complained Carmen Girard, chairman of the town's library trustees. A number of the workshops are given in Hatfield — a 100-mile round trip — although one or two courses are offered in Berkshire County each year.

Girard, who fought to preserve Andrew's position, said the former librarian's 11 years experience as library aide in the Adams-Cheshire school district, plus the 10 years she served in the Cheshire post, should have sufficed. She argued that the town library was small — about 25,000 volumes — and that most traffic involved the lending of fiction, and not much reference work.

However, both those who enforce the standards and other librarians back up the importance of education.

Tiny Monterey, population 841, has a computerized lending system monitoring its stacks. Dalton also is automated, with Sheffield soon to follow. Other libraries offer innovative programs, especially for children, Klopfer said.

"Cataloging, budgets, children's services . . . the workshops really help with those things, along with management skills and book selections," she said. "There are some interesting things happening in small libraries."

Klopfer said she often runs into problems that reveal a librarian's dearth of training.

"I do a lot of weeding in libraries," she said. "It's amazing that someone who is not aware of how to build a collection, what they will keep. I just threw away two books where Hawaii was not even a state."

"There are lots of state grants," said Marcia Rich, coordinator of library development for the system. "Once you're beyond that threshold of minimum state standards, a whole other world opens up to you."

According to figures released by the state Board of Library Commissioners, there are 30 city or town libraries in Berkshire County. Of these, 21 applied for the incentive grant last year, and all received it. Those who did not apply, in addition to Cheshire, were Alford, Hancock, Mount Washington, Otis, Savoy, Stockbridge, Tyringham and Windsor.

Stockbridge, however, did apply for and receive a Municipal Equalization Grant, which aims at compensation for libraries in communities with little revenue-raising capacity.

Mary A. Litterst, planning and research specialist for the library commissioners, said only one of the 21 communities that received the incentive grant employed a librarian who did not meet minimum standards, and that person was "grandfathered" for certification.

Ten of the applicants met the standards, she said, and the final 10 exceeded the requirements.

"There is a growing trend at the municipal level to have more training," Litterst said, pointing to town administrators, town clerks and assessors.

Katherine C. Westwood, Lanesboro librarian, has a four-year degree, even though the requirements call for only two years of college. Appointed a little more than a year ago, she already has completed one of the basic library techniques courses offered by the Regional Library System.

"I took a reference course and it was excellent, it really helped," she said.

Westwood took what basically was a circulating library and added several programs, including a story hour for preschoolers, a summer reading program and an inventory of copyright-free computer programs for borrowing and copying. The library also prominently displays children's programs.

Monterey has a computerized lending system monitoring its stacks.

"There's a lot we still have to do," said Westwood, who works just 10 hours a week. She especially praised the state's interlibrary loan program, which enables libraries that meet the state Board of Commissioners standards to borrow from one another without cost. "We get a lot of materials we couldn't get otherwise."

Georgia Massucco, full-time librarian in Lee, holds a master's degree in library science, even though the post does not require it.

"My degree helps tremendously," she said. "It involves a lot of theory, it broadens your perspective, gives a real good background. Education is a really broadening experience. Everyone should keep taking courses."

Massucco also offers varied services, such as story hours, a reading discussion program and a telephone reference service. When she's stumped for resources, she said, she turns to Klopfer.

Region supportive

"The region is very supportive of individual libraries," she said. "They add a lot of professional expertise that you couldn't afford to purchase."

In Sheffield, librarian John K. Campbell works extensively with schoolchildren, and takes pride in the Sheffield Library's children's section. He delivers and reads books to kindergartners and 2nd graders at the Center School, and regularly hosts 1st, 3rd and 4th graders at the library. He also works with students in the Ashley Falls School program.

"I'm very busy with kids," he said. But he also has time for the elderly and regularly delivers books to one woman who can't visit the library. He's getting a computer on line to handle the library's lending business and then hopes to put the card catalog on computer.

Campbell keeps up a torrid pace, working 44 hours a week as librarian, then moonlighting as an upholsterer to augment his $22,000 salary. It's not a grand salary for someone with a master's degree in library science, he said, but he didn't earn the degree to fatten his paycheck. He earned the degree to broaden his mind.

"I believe in education, in the minimum standard," he said. "Some libraries are dying because the librarian doesn't know how to function."

Cable rates jump 21.7% for South County viewers

Pg. A3

Eagle 4-1-90

By Clarence Fanto
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Century Berkshire Cable Corp., which serves some 8,000 subscribers in Lee, Lenox, Great Barrington and Stockbridge, is posting a 21.7 percent rate hike as of May 1 — boosting the cost of basic service from $14.75 to $17.95.

A year ago, Century hiked its rates by 34 percent, from $11 per month.

The increase will make Century the county's most expensive cable service. Warner Cable in Pittsfield has been charging $14.20 a month since last September, while Adelphia Cable in North Berkshire offers basic service for $15.95 as well as a limited 13-channel "Lifeline" option for $9.95.

"We, like anyone else, regret any kind of increase and we don't relish imposing it," said William Phillips, Northeastern operations manager for Century Communications, the parent company.

"But, unfortunately, it's part of doing business and all we can do is give the customers the best possible package we can for their dollars."

Under federal deregulation of the cable industry in 1984, individual companies were no longer subject to an annual limit on rate increases.

'Outrage' foreseen

"Obviously, subscribers will be outraged," said Daniel A. Miller Jr. of Great Barrington, chairman of the Cable Advisory Commission for the four South County towns served by Century.

"I would strongly suggest that subscribers write to the Senate subcommittee reviewing cable performance."

Miller acknowledged that the town has no recourse when cable fees are raised. "They're allowed to charge whatever the market will bear," said Miller.

But, he added, a cable commission public hearing soon will be scheduled for late this month to hear from subscribers. A Century Cable official will attend, he said.

The commission is currently reviewing forms submitted by Century documenting its recent performance.

"It's significantly better than what we had a few years ago," said Miller of Century Cable's service. "However, it's probably not state of the art in terms of what more densely populated areas might have."

Recent expansion

Last June, Century expanded its basic service from 20 to 33 channels, completed a major overhaul of its equipment, and expanded its lines into some areas of the four towns not previously served.

The company has had a rocky history in its relations with the four towns. Just six weeks ago, the Great Barrington Selectmen voted to reject Century's request to renew its 10-year license to serve the area.

The vote amounted to a gesture, since the company's license does not expire until August 1992 and the firm can submit the standard state application form that the Selectmen had said was missing from its renewal request.

In an unsigned letter to subscribers notifying them of the upcoming increase, Century reported it has experienced "continuing significant increases in operational costs over the past several years."

"Our business has been hit particularly hard by rapidly increasing programming, construction, operating and maintenance costs," the letter stated.

Placing the blame

The company argued that it had "worked diligently" to control the impact of those costs by absorbing "as many of the increasing prices as possible through operating efficiencies while at the same time providing the finest service possible."

CABLE, continued on A7

South County cable boosts rates

■ CABLE, from A3

Phillips blamed the bulk of the increased costs on increased fees charged to cable operators by program suppliers like ESPN, which have negotiated costly rights to sports events.

When asked about Century Cable's profits or losses, Phillips responded: "I would describe it as profitable.

"I think cable still represents one of the best entertainment values available," he added.

The Century executive denied that rates are being hiked sharply now because of possible action in Congress later this year that would restore some form of cable industry regulation.

Instead, he said, the current and recent increases represent an effort to catch up from the era of regulation, when prices were "artificially low."

Phillips also revealed that the manager of Century Cable in Lee, David King, has resigned for personal reasons and has left the area. King had been in the job for eight months.

In its announcement of the rate hike, Century promised a continued upgrading of its facilities as well as additional programming services to be announced by May 1.

Century offered for the first time a choice of services — called "tiers" in cable industry jargon. Eagle Pg. A1 4-1-90

In its announcement of the latest rate increase, Century offered for the first time a choice of services — called "tiers" in cable industry jargon.

A new option

Viewers who wish a less costly alternative to the $17.95 gold tier package will be offered a channel lineup for $15.95 that would exclude some of the most popular cable networks.

Missing from the new $15.95 basic tier would be ESPN, Cable News Network (CNN), Turner Network Television (TNT), Sports Channel New England, the USA Network and, from New York, WOR and WPIX.

Viewers of the less costly alternative would have two CBS affiliates (Schenectady and Hartford), NBC and ABC affiliates from Albany, WTIC-TV, a Fox Network affiliate in Hartford, WXXA, an Albany Fox Network station, two PBS channels from Springfield and Albany, WSBK-TV, an independent channel in Boston that carries a heavy pro sports schedule, as well as American Movie Classics, the Arts and Entertainment Network, MTV, Bravo, the Weather Channel, Lifetime, Nickelodeon and the Nashville Network.

Century will continue to offer premium channels for an extra charge — HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, Disney, The Movie Channel and Sports Channel.

The company is also increasing its monthly charge for additional cable outlets to $4.50 from the current $3.75.

Adelphia Cable, serving 13,000 customers in North Berkshire, went to a two-tier service in February, offering a "Lifeline" service — 12 broadcast channels plus public access — for $9.95 and a 27-channel alternative for $15.95.

Warner Cable in Pittsfield — with some 20,000 subscribers in the city, as well as Richmond and Dalton — posted its most recent rate increase last September — a 10 percent hike that sent the monthly charge to $14.20.

14

Bids soar to $3,740 for old birdhouse

Eagle 4/4/90 Pg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A birdhouse picked up at a tag sale for $5 was auctioned off Saturday afternoon at Caropreso Galleries for what the seller believes could be a record $3,740.

"It was just a damn old birdhouse," said auctioneer Louis Caropreso, who said he is checking with a national auctioneering publication to find the record sale price for an early 20th-century birdhouse. Caropreso said yesterday he would be surprised if his birdhouse didn't break it.

The birdhouse is made of wood, with a tiny tin American flag atop it. It apparently was built around 1933, Caropreso said.

"It's a lovely piece," he said. "Birdhouses do well anyway, but this is a little unusual."

One of Caropreso's spotters actually purchased the birdhouse at a tag sale in upstate New York.

"We have people called pickers who know what we're looking for," he said. "If they see something that looks interesting, they'll pick it up for us."

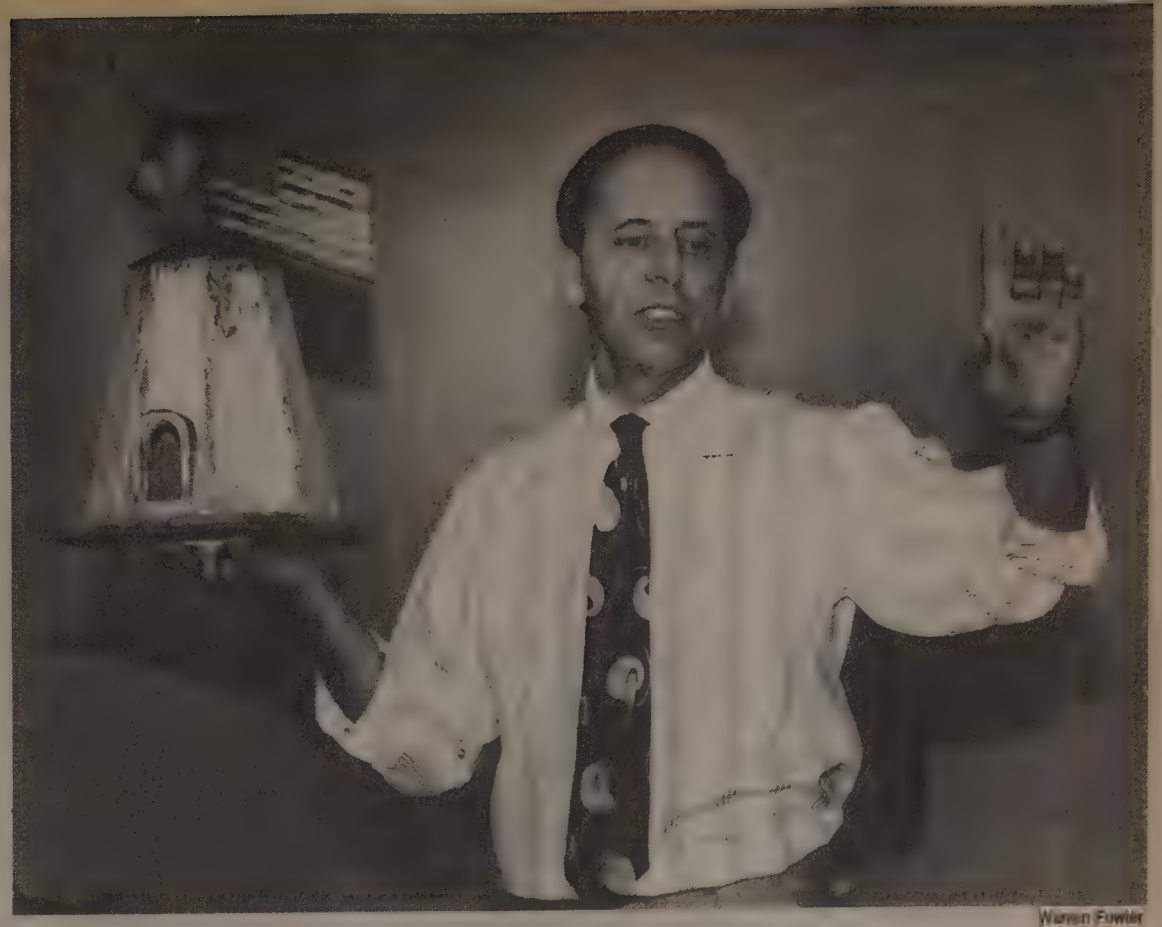
Under his agreement with the pickers, Caropreso gets 20 percent of the auction price. The buyer of the birdhouse at the tag sale, Michael White of Loudonville, N.Y., gets $2,992.

"Yeah, it's not bad for spending an afternoon at a tag sale," Caropreso said.

Caropreso admitted the unusual octagonal shape and the flag on the top of the birdhouse made it an interesting item. He figured it would go for maybe $300, $500 tops.

"People like things like this," he said. "We call it folk art.

AUCTION, continued on B6



Warren Fowler

Birdhouse in hand of auctioneer Louis Caropreso was the object of a bidding war by telephone Saturday in Lee.

Birdhouse

Eagle 4-4-90

■ AUCTION, from B1

It's nice to look at and it's functional."

Caropreso said one factor that jacked up the bidding was a photo of the birdhouse in a national publication that advertises auctions across the country. Although his gallery often gets several hundred people at its monthly auctions, many of the higher bidders are telephone shoppers.

"I'm glad we got that photo in," he said. "That helped a lot, I think."

The gallery has nine telephone lines that can be called during the auction. When the birdhouse went up for auction, the phone lines lit up, Caropreso said.

"We had a couple people here bidding, but we had six people bidding by telephone," he said. "That's when it really took off."

The bidding came down to offers by telephone from a bidder in Maine and a bidder in California, Caropreso said. He declined to mention their names.

"They just kept going higher and higher," he said. "I couldn't take the bids fast enough. "Finally, the fella from California had enough, I guess."

When the bidding was over, Caropreso conceded he was pretty surprised at the final price of the birdhouse.

"I thought at the time, 'this has gotta be for a very wealthybird,' " he said.

Lee co-generation foes will stage meeting Friday

Eagle 4-4-90 Pg. B8

LEE — Concerned Citizens of Lee, a citizens' group opposing the construction of a co-generation plant at Kimberly-Clark's Columbia Mill, will sponsor an informational meeting Friday at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center.

The meeting will concern the latest developments in the plant proposal. The group believes the developers, Tenaska Inc. of Omaha, Neb. and its local affiliate, Lee Mass Co-Generation Co., are trying to block attempts of residents and town officials to gain official status for commenting on the project.

Plans for the plant and an accompanying natural gas pipeline are now before the state Energy Facility Siting Council. The council has jurisdiction over such projects and will rule on the suitability of the proposal.

The plans are on file at Lee Library.

In a related matter, the Lee Mass Co-Generation Co. has announced the opening of an office at Eagle Mill, 22 Center St.

The office will be staffed by project manager Gary Hoover and office manager Dale DeVarennes. Hoover is vice president of Tenaska and DeVarennes is a resident of Lee.

No complaint

Eagle 4-5-90

To the Editor of THE EAGLE: — Pg. A10

Despite the misunderstanding in my being asked last Saturday to cease distributing leaflets in front of the Lee Price Chopper [Eagle, April 1], I have no complaint with Price Chopper.

The company has always been supportive of community activities and also kindly receptive and generous to requests for donations.

I enjoy shopping at Lee Price Chopper and intend to continue. The management and staff are pleasant and helpful. I have high praise for them.

The leaflets I distributed represented my feelings as an opponent to the proposed Tenaska co-generation plant in Lee.

CONNIE McCARTHY
10 Navin Heights
Lee

Co-generation opponents in Lee schedule meeting

Eagle 4-5-90 Pg. B3

LEE — The Concerned Citizens of Lee will host an informational meeting to present the latest developments in the attempt by a Nebraska firm to construct a $60 million co-generation plant on the site of the Kimberly-Clark Columbia Street mill. The meeting is Friday at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Tenaska Inc. of Omaha, Neb., is proposing the plan. The company plans to construct the plant and sell steam to Kimberly-Clark and electricity to the New England power grid.

The Concerned Citizens is composed of residents in town who oppose the project. Several weeks ago, 21 residents and town officials requested intervenor status in upcoming judicial-style hearings before the state Siting Council. Intervenors can take direct part in the hearing by calling witnesses and by cross-examining witnesses called by the applicant.

Tenaska, however, has requested that the status of all the applicants be downgraded to that of interested parties. Interested parties have less influence in the hearing process.

The Concerned Citizens' group is also requesting that Tenaska file an environmental impact report on the project prior to the hearings before the site committee. The plant's position near the center of town has brought up questions of air and noise pollution and traffic.

Members of the Concerned Citizens have also noted that the high-pressure gas pipeline carrying fuel to the plant will pass under or near schools, churches and heavily residential areas.

Lee water bills increased 50%

Eagle 4-5-90 Pg. B7

LEE — The town Department of Public Works has announced that April water bills have been increased by about 50 percent to pay for a pilot filtration plant for the water supply.

Residents have already received their bills, and DPW Chairman Joseph Castronova apologized for informing them so late. He said the board should have enclosed a flier with the bills but neglected to.

The DPW is hoping to build up its cash reserves to pay for the plant, which is part of an overall capital improvement plan, Castronova said. It is hoped the plant will be built by 1992, he said.

Eagle 4/5/90 Pg. B7

Lee Memorial Hall panel reports on renovation plan

LEE — The Memorial Hall Renovation Committee has given the Selectmen a progress report on plans for the revamping of the 113-year-old structure on Main Street.

Plans, as presented by chairman Henry Donahue, call for adding an elevator, access by the handicapped and two stairwells to meet state fire codes. The two existing marble stairwells do not meet state safety codes and will be taken out.

The basement level will include a renovated and expanded communications room and police lockers and dressing quarters, according to Mark Dunn, an adviser to the committee from Architects Inc. The stairs in the front of the building will also be removed, and entrance will be into a lobby on the first floor.

That first floor, he said, will contain the town clerk, town accountant and town treasurer's offices, as well as the police chief's office, a squadroom, lounge, interrogation room, vault and secured file room. The courtroom will remain intact as a meeting room, Dunn said.

There will be five office spaces on the second floor, and the attic will be closed off.

Selectmen Chairman Diane P. Roosa, also a member of the committee, added that the electrical wiring and plumbing will be upgraded. Right now, she said, the wiring is substandard.

"It's a very hazardous building," she said. "I know the Police Department can't turn two things on without blowing a fuse."

The project could be completed by March 1991, Dunn said. The roof has already been refurbished at a cost of about $70,000, about a tenth of the funds set aside for repairing the entire structure.

Roosa said the Selectmen have envisioned several uses for the building now that Southern Berkshire District Court has moved out. The school district, which may move some of its offices out of the portable building abutting Lee Central School, has expressed an interest in space, she said. But any decision will be made by the Selectmen after renovations are complete.

Courier 4/5/90 Pg. 4

Courier Missed Big Game

To the Editor:

When *The Berkshire Courier* came last week and I saw you had covered the Lee High girls' basketball team's back-to-back state championships with just a sentence tucked in the back of the paper, I was surprised.

Then common sense took over. I said obviously you didn't have time to do more before going to press so the "coverage" would be in the next issue. After all, it's a big event in Southern Berkshire — quite an achievement — a very positive achievement for a group of teenagers — an historic achievement since no other team in the county has ever won back-to-back state championships.

Well, I just finished reading the next week's *Courier* and to my amazement there was nothing more — not a single word about these great teenagers, their hard work, their accomplishments, nothing. Just last week's "they won — the score was," that's all the *Courier* saw as important.

Thank God for *The Berkshire Eagle* who covered not only Lee very well, but also had a couple of nice columns about the Monument team. If our local paper can't support our girls, I guess we should be grateful the *Eagle* will

Marion Carr

Lee

Editor's note: The newspaper's sports photographer, who had covered the Lee girls' basketball team's progress through the division finals, was unable to attend the state championship game, other reporters were unavailable and thus the paper had no pictorial coverage.

Courier 4/5/90 Pg. 2

Lee

Lee Cogeneration Opens Office

LEE — Lee Mass Cogeneration has opened an office at the Eagle Mill, 22 Center St.

The company plans to build and operate a cogeneration plant on the industrial Columbia Mill property in Lee.

Gary Hoover, project manager, and Dale DeVarennes, office manager, will staff the new office.

Mr. Hoover is a vice president of Tenaska, based in Omaha, Neb. Lee Mass Cogeneration is a Tenaska affiliate. Ms. DeVarennes is a Lee native.

The office phone number is 243-0929.

A detailed report on the project which was prepared for the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Council has been placed on reference file at the Lee Library.

Concerned Citizens To Meet

LEE — Concerned Citizens of Lee, a citizens' action group promoting the safe generation of electric power, is sponsoring an open meeting to present the latest developments in Lee Mass Cogeneration's attempt to build a proposed cogeneration electric power plant at the site of the Kimberly-Clark Columbia Mill here.

The group will hold a meeting April 6 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center.

The organization is opposed to the construction of the proposed plant according to a news release is trying to "make local residents aware of Tenaska's attempts to block local residents and town officials from becoming intervenors at the legal hearings to be held by the Mass Energy Facilities Siting Council."

The council will rule if the proposed plant and high-pressure gas line may be built. As a state agency, the council has the power of eminent domain and the power to overrule town boards. A timetable for hearings will soon be set.

Health Fair April 28

LEE — The Lee Visiting Nurse Association will hold a health fair April 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Central School on High Street.

The fair will offer free tests, exhibits, information, refreshments and babysitting. It is free to all residents of Lee, Tyringham, Becket, Otis, Stockbridge, Middlefield, Blandford Chester and Sandisfield.

Easter Egg Hunt April 8

LEE — Price Chopper supermarket is sponsoring an Easter egg hunt at the high school football field April 8 at 1 p.m. Children should bring their own basket. Prizes will be awarded to the winner in each of three age groups: two to four, five to seven and eight to 10.

Courier 4/5/90 Pg. 3

Cable TV Rate Increase Draws Harsh Criticism

By Bernard Drew

LEE — Century Berkshire Cable TV, which has some 8,000 subscribers here and in Lenox, Stockbridge and Great Barrington, with its latest billing included notice that as of May 1, rates will go up some 21.7 percent.

This is on top of a 34 percent increase last year.

The new rates will now be $15.95 for "basic service" and an additional $2 for additional channels such as ESPN, Cable News Network, Turner Network Television, Sports Channel New England, USA Network, WOR and WPIX.

The rate increase was univerally criticized by county and town officials this week.

The County Commission went on record Tuesday as opposed to the severe climb, and said it would protest in writing to Congressman Silvio O. Conte and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

In Stockbridge Monday, four-town cable television committee member David Lane urged subscribers to withhold payments in protest. He also called for a public hearing. (See related story.)

Daniel A. Miller Jr. of Great Barrington, advisory committee chairman, said his group will begin a series of monthly meetings.

He said the towns have no recourse as far as the increase goes, because of industry de-regulation.

At Monday's Selectmen's meeting in Great Barrington, Selectman John W.P. Mooney said that $17.95 per month may not be an outrageous figure, nationally, for the number of channels being offered by Century, most systems serve every home in a community and "aren't just skimming the cream."

He said that while industry costs have climbed, they have not climbed 22 percent in the last year.

And he said most systems offering a basic package do so at a figure closer to $10.

TV advisory committee member Herbert Wolff said that Century has made even greater increases in its charges for FM radio reception off its lines — to $4.50 a month.

He and others at the meeting complained of Century's apparent inability to regularly broadcast the 6:25 p.m. Berkshire News five-minute progams on weekdays.

"I strongly urge people to write their representatives and the state cable commission," said Mr. Miller.

Century Berkshire's local manager, David King, has reportedly left the company and was unavailable for comment.

Advertisement Courier 4/5/90 Pg. 5

Natural Gas Pipeline In Lee Planned For Maximum Safety

Purpose Of Pipeline

The Lee Mills Cogeneration Project will be fueled by natural gas — America's cleanest fuel — transported by a state-of-the-art pipeline.

Lower Pressure Than Existing Lee Pipelines

We will tap into the existing 800 pound-per-square-inch Tennessee Gas Pipeline which passes through Lee. Our 10-inch pipeline will operate at a reduced rate of 450 psi, more than 40 percent less than the operating pressure of Lee's existing pipeline.

Safety Standards Exceeded

As we plan for this pipeline, public safety is our utmost concern. These safety features, which will meet or exceed government standards, include:

- a pipeline which is completely buried;
- pipeline routing planned for public right of ways and Lee Mills property only, areas where no one will do any private digging;
- capable of pressures five times greater than the designed operating pressure of the pipeline;
- all joints and connections welded;
- only certified pipeline welders hired to work on the pipeline;
- all joints and connections 100 percent x-rayed — the government requirement is 10 percent;
- every part of the line tested with water which is pressurized to 150 percent of the operating pressure before the line is filled with gas;
- three remote-controlled, automatic emergency shutoff valves which automatically slam shut if a pressure drop is detected;
- two corrosion protections, outer coating and cathodic, which will keep the natural underground rust process from ever starting; and
- frequent visual inspections by trained professionals.

Our public safety program will include citizen education, posting of pipeline markers, registration with the Massachusetts "DIG SAFE" program, local emergency response coordination, odorizing natural gas for detection of any leaks, plus scheduled maintenance and testing.

Cogeneration: Answering Your Energy Needs

LEE MASS COGENERATION CO.

P.O. Box 653
Lee, Massachusetts 01238-0653
Phone Number: (413) 243-0929

Fourth in a series of ads sponsored by the Lee Mass Cogeneration Company to inform Lee and Berkshire County residents on the proposed Lee Cogeneration Project

Lee residents get details on Tenaska plant impact

Eagle 4-7-90 Pg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — At an informational meeting attended by about 90 residents and town officials, members of the Concerned Citizens of Lee presented a detailed update of their battle to prevent the construction of a $60 million co-generation plant on Columbia Street.

Tenaska Inc. of Omaha, Neb., is proposing the 120-megawatt plant, which will sell electricity to the Cape Cod area and generate steam for Kimberly-Clark Corp.

The program was divided into several segments, with a separate speaker discussing various aspects of the project. Among the points brought up were:

► According to calculations generated by Tenaska, the plant will generate about 2 tons of particulate emissions per day from its smokestacks. Included in these emissions will be sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide and nitrous oxide and ammonia.

► A 460,000-gallon oil tank is proposed for the site, which is located in the town's flood plain.

► The plant will require about 2 million gallons of water daily as coolant. About half of this water will be returned to the Housatonic River, heated to a temperature of about 80 degrees, a temperature fatal to many micro-organisms in the river's ecosystem.

► Studies are under way now to determine the link between cancer and high-voltage power lines. Tenaska is planning to construct a 115-kilovolt line along 2 miles of mainly residential roads.

► The company is proposing to run a high-pressure, 450-pounds-per-square-inch gas line through the center of town. The Concerned Citizens of Lee are requesting the company examine the possibility of building a pipeline that would carry 200 pounds per square inch, which is within state limits.

► The gas line would run under or near several schools and churches. The town does not have sufficient fire and emergency personnel to deal with a disaster should the line burst.

► Estimates indicate that the plant will be sending about 17 oil trucks daily through town. Each truck will weigh about 93,000 pounds. Tenaska has not indicated if it would contribute to the upkeep of the town roads these trucks will travel over.

► The plant will operate seven days a week. A similar, smaller plant in Pepperell was shut down a few weeks ago by the town Selectmen because of noise problems.

Paul DiTomasso, one of the speakers, also told the audience that Kimberly-Clark has threatened to pull out of the town if it does not get the co-generation plant. He said a study of the company's finances indicated that Kimberly-Clark, a large, multi-plant company, has $5 billion in assets.

"They can afford to invest in their own, smaller plant for their steam if

TENASKA, continued on B3

Concerned

■ TENASKA, from B1

they wanted to," he said. "But if an outside company comes in and invests, Kimberly-Clark has no incentive to stay."

Michael Fields, a truck driver, told the audience that although Lee has many mills, it still counts tourism as a major industry. The plant, with its 155-foot smokestacks, will be visible all over town.

"How many people do you know pack up the kids and head to northern New Jersey for a vacation in Perth Amboy?" he asked.

The group also handed out a booklet detailing all their arguments. Scott Dinan, one of the group's coordinators, told the audience that volunteers would be needed to go to Boston for upcoming hearings before the state Siting Council. The group has also hired a lawyer, he said, and asked for donations. They can be sent to the group's post office box in town, which is 520.

Dinan added that the group meets every Wednesday at the Senior Center for anyone wishing to join.

Eagle 4-7-90

66 ballots are cast at Lee caucuses

Eagle 4-7-90 Pg. B6

LEE — In a Democratic caucus that featured no contests, voters Thursday nominated Louis Failla for selectman with nine write-in votes and enthusiastically endorsed the candidacies of first-time candidate Margaret M. Biron, Planning Board, and incumbents Joseph M. Toole, moderator; Edward M. Briggs, assessor; and Lester J. Clarke and Edward M. Lahey, school committee.

A total of 41 registered Democrats and Independents cast votes in the caucus.

And, incumbent Diane P. Roosa was nominated to a three-year term on the Board of Selectmen at Tuesday night's Republican caucus, held at the Senior Center.

A total of 25 Republicans voted in the caucus, which saw no surprises and no races.

The results of the Democratic caucus follow:

Selectman	
(Nominate 1, 3 years)	
Louis Failla**	9
Moderator	
(Nominate 1, 1 year)	
Joseph M. Toole*	39
Assessor	
(Nominate 1, 3 years)	
Edward M. Briggs*	40
Planning Board	
(Nominate 1, 5 years)	
Margaret M. Biron	39
School Committee	
(Nominate 2, 3 years)	

Concerned

■ TENASKA, from B1

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Assessor	
(Nominate 1, 3 years)	
Edward M. Briggs*	40
Planning Board	
(Nominate 1, 5 years)	
Margaret M. Biron	39
School Committee	
(Nominate 2, 2 years)	
Edward M. Lahey*	38
Board of Health	
(Nominate 1, 3 years)	
Lester J. Clarke*	37

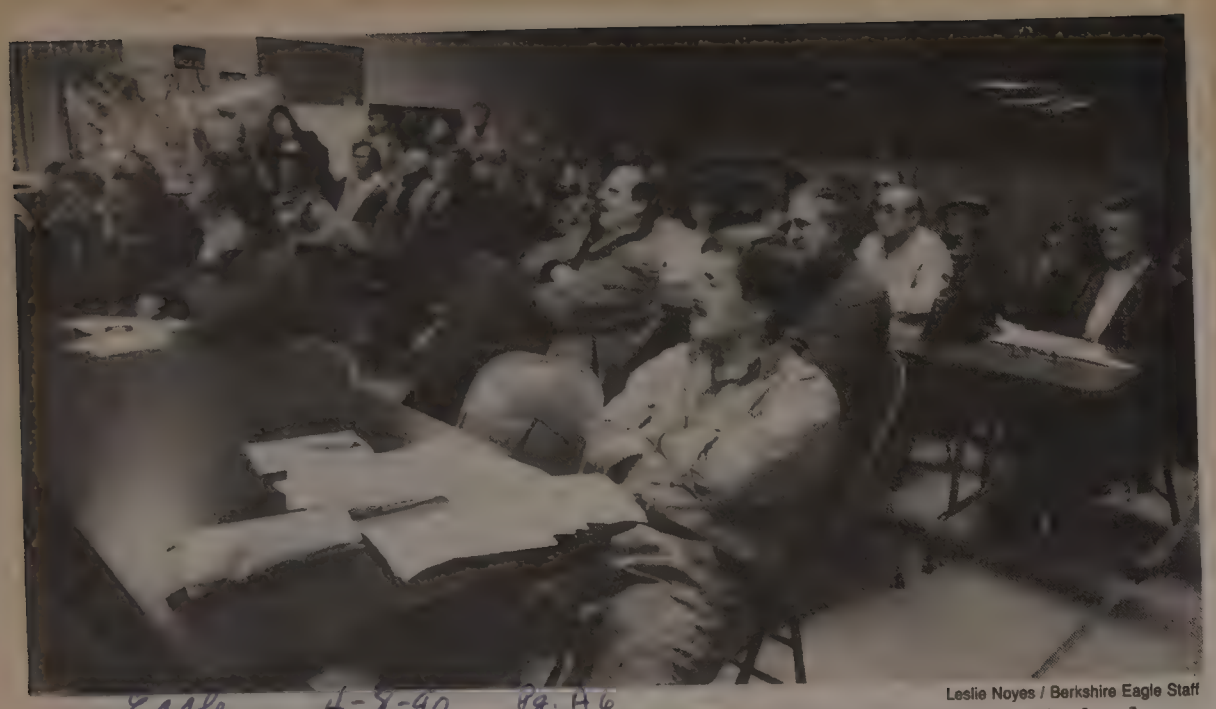
* Denotes incumbent
* Denotes write-in votes

Republican results

The results of the Republican caucus follow.

Selectman	
(Nominate 1, 3 years)	
Diane P. Roosa*	24
Moderator	
(Nominate 1, 1 year)	
Stephen A. Cozzaglio**	2
Assessor	
(Nominate 1, 3 years)	
Francis Borguard**	1
School Committee	
(Nominate 1, 3 years)	
Roland M. Besaw	24
Planning Board	
(Nominate 1, 3 years)	
Thomas P. Wickham	25
Tax Collector	
(Nominate 1, 3 years)	
Janice G. Smith*	25
Housing Authority	
(Nominate 1, 3 years)	
Rita S. Perry	25

* Denotes incumbent
** Denotes write-in votes.



Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Eagle 4-8-90 Pg. A6

Weekly meeting of the Lee Concerned Citizens at the Senior Center regularly draws between 40 and 50 residents. The group is contesting a planned co-generation plant proposed for Columbia Street.

Better plowing in Lee

Pg. A6
Eagle 4/9/90

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

In response to the article March 28 on how the Lee highway crew is faulted by the Department of Public Works board, I would like to make one important comment concerning the trivial nit-picking about extended coffee breaks, etc.

For the past 20 years I have commuted to work from Lee to another community. When I leave the town of Lee at 6:15 a.m., after a snowstorm, the main roads and side streets are cleared and in reasonably good shape. By the time I reach that other place, you'd think you're in a different world. Side streets are not plowed at all and main roads are in rough shape.

My point is: Wake up DPW and appreciate the great job Peter Scolforo and his crew do for the town, instead of making a big deal out of an extra five minutes on a coffee break.

DAVID C. BOWERS Jr.
Fairview St.
Lee

Selectmen seek delay for special articles

Eagle 4-10-90 Pg. B4

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — As part of the strategy to get a more complete picture of the state aid situation, the Selectmen last night agreed to request all special articles dealing with financial outlays be passed over at May's annual town meeting for consideration at a special town meeting later in the year.

The town does not expect to get any word of how much state aid to expect until perhaps as late as June. With the town budget so tight, the board decided to recommend that special articles be passed over. The final decision would be left up to the town representatives. The town has not ruled on a final budget yet.

In another matter, the Selectmen heard a complaint from a High Street woman that speeding on her road has reached hazardous proportions.

Laura Frank of High Street told the Selectmen that she and her husband estimated that cars come down the street at speeds in excess of 50 mph. As there is no stop sign at the end of the road, she said, the street has become a freeway. She said she was concerned that her children or other neighborhood children were in danger.

Frank told the board she had spoken to police in October but had not had any satisfaction.

Bernard Judmore, a member of the town's Traffic Study Committee, agreed with Frank about the problems with the road. But he pointed out that the state had no money to provide a stop sign or warning sign. Judmore said his board is recommending a policeman be stationed at Center Street and High Street during the day to deter speeders.

The Selectmen told Frank they would request Police Chief Edward J. Finnegan attend an upcoming meeting for other suggestions.

Lee High School to mark early Earth Day tomorrow

Eagle 4-10-90 Pg. B5

LEE — Lee High School will observe an early Earth Day tomorrow. The actual 20th anniversary of Earth Day is being celebrated worldwide Sunday, April 22, at the end of spring vacation.

The Lee High Earth Day Committee has planned a poster contest for Grades K-8 at Lee Central School and Otis School, in which pupils will submit posters on Earth Day issues. Area businesses will display all entries. Deadline is Thursday.

There also will be an environmental quiz contest.

Events that will be held on Lee High Earth Day are:

► 7:45 a.m. — Students will raise an Earth Day flag purchased by the student council. It will be flown to celebrate positive events for the planet, and at half-staff to mourn tragedies.

► 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. — Professor Charles Weinstein of Berkshire Community College will speak at an assembly about the tropical rain forest and global ecology. The Lee High Pop/Jazz Ensemble will perform contemporary music.

► 1 p.m. — Lee High and Lee Central pupils will march in a sidewalk parade with slogans, banners, costumes and props depicting problems and solutions for quality of life. A Dixieland offshoot of the Lee High Band will play. The parade route is from Academy Street to the east side of Main Street, Park Street, High Street and back to origin. Raindate is Thursday.

A tree planting will take place in May.

The events have been organized by students Heather Browne, Cindy Cahalen, Carole Ford and Todd Roosa; faculty members Dian Howe and Cheryl Nelsen; and Diane Larrivee of the Tri-Town Health Department.

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Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Eagle 4/12/90 Pg. A1

Parade for the planet

Student Brian Epps and Dean of Students Kathleen Bort lead Lee High School's Earth Day parade to kick off a week of events planned by the school to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the first Earth Day. The worldwide observance will be April 22.

AG's office to defend Hodgkins in slander suit

BOSTON — An assistant attorney general has been assigned the job of representing state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, in a $4 million slander lawsuit filed by Great Barrington Fairgrounds owner Henry Vara.

A spokesman for the office of Attorney General James Shannon said yesterday that John Hartmere of the civil torts division was assigned to Hodgkins' case after it was determined that the lawsuit was based on Hodgkins' activities as a state representative.

Hodgkins, who hired a private attorney after being served with papers in the case two weeks ago, said yesterday he was relieved to learn he would not have to continue to pay a lawyer.

"This is a frivolous lawsuit, but I'm taking it seriously," said Hodgkins. "I don't doubt there will be a quick resolution."

Hodgkins and WWLP-TV in Agawam are being sued for $4 million for allegedly airing a tape in which Hodgkins described Vara as "linked to organized crime."

A Superior Court judge last week issued a temporary restraining order barring the television station from destroying or altering any tapes of the interview with Hodgkins. To date, no further action has been scheduled in the case.

Hodgkins has denied making the statement. As of yesterday, Hodgkins said, he had not seen a tape of the interview as broadcast.

Eagle 4/12/90 Pg. B9

Hodgkins Files Turnpike Bills

Courier 4-12-90 Pg. 14

LEE — Rep. Christopher J. Hogdkins (D-Lee) has filed two bills that would change the membership of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and require an audit be conducted on the authority's fiscal policies and practices.

Mr. Hodgkins is seeking to expand the membership of the authority's board and shorten terms of office.

Tenaska misinforms the public

Eagle 4-13-90 Pg. F9

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

As the chairperson of the communications committee for the Concerned Citizens of Lee (CCL), I disagree with Charles Najimy's contention [Letters, April 5] that any of the information we publish is "putting forth unfounded rumors and fears."

Tenaska's legal council on March 6 petitioned the Energy Facilities Siting Council to deny 21 local residents, which included two of the Selectmen and a member of the Tri-Town Board of Health, intervenor status in the legal hearings that will take place before that board.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has recently ruled that Tenaska's air quality data, the information from which they calculate how much cleaner the new plant would be, are outdated and insufficient. The data were collected between 1977 and 1980 and never verified by an independent investigator. Since then, production at the Columbia/Eagle mills has fallen further. Tenaska bases their comparison and advertisements of being cleaner, on *allowable, not current* emissions from the Eagle/Columbia mills. For example, the current emissions from the Eagle/Columbia mills for total suspended particulats (soot) are actually less than what is proposed by Tenaska's plant (31 tons per year vs. 40 tons per year). And both of those are markedly less than what the Eagle/Columbia mills are allowed to produce (275.5 tons per year).

And that assumes that Tenaska will only burn oil 30 days per year, which is a best case scenario. It hardly seems fair to use a worst case scenario for the current plant and a best case scenario for the proposed plant.

In addition, Tenaska asked the DEP for a two-year temporary permit, which would allow them to run the proposed plant before all pertinent permits would be issued and all environmental concerns addressed. A very unusual request, especially from a firm that Mr. Najimy thinks is so concerned with the environment.

Yes, Tenaska and Northeast Utilities are entitled to make a profit. But it is unclear why Northeast Utilities needs a 11.5 percent rate increase when it has 30 million to invest through its Charter Oak subsidiary in the proposed plant. Utilities are a regulated public monopoly. By investing in this private firm, NU stands to earn a much larger return on its investment than if it built its own plant. There is a cap on return on investment in new plants to protect the public from price-gouging utilities. In essence, NU is attempting to circumvent the regulations that were meant to protect us, the rate-payers.

Employment at Kimberly-Clark mills in Lee has falled from over 700 to 275 in the last 15 years. The Greylock Mill produces only one product line, cigarette tipping paper, and production at the mills has steadily decreased. Kimberly-Clark's gross profits were $1,883.7 million in 1989. If the management at Kimberly-Clark thought that co-generation would save this mill, why didn't they invest in their own plant long ago instead of putting the Columbia Mill up for sale on the real estate market? In fact it was Tenaska, after losing a bid to build a 50 megawatt power block for WMECO, that approached Kimberly-Clark about building the prosed plant. By not investing in their own plant, Kimberly-Clark makes the jobs at the mill less, not more, secure.

The CCL is committed to raising concerns about this project in a factual and responsible manner. The group believes that the generation of electric power should not endanger public safety, which is clearly an issue here, where a high pressure gas line would be run though a predominately residential neighborhood and the plant itself is located within 3,000 feet of the center of town. The group believes that local industries are important to the overall health of the town, but local industries and outside developers must be prevented from taking actions that are hazardous to public safety or not in the best interest of the community as a whole.

I would suggest that it is Tenaska, not the CCL, that has attempted to misinform the public.

DAVID OLKEN

Lee

Eagle 4-12-90 Pg. B2

Lee, Lenox residents join Laurel Lake effort

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Environmental groups from Lee and Lenox are collaborating on a project that they hope will mean a cleaner, weed-free Laurel Lake.

According to Diedre Consolati, chairman of the Laurel Lakes Clean Lakes Commission, the group is made up of private citizens from both towns who own property on the lake. The Public Works departments of the two towns have also been invited to participate.

The group was formed about a year and a half ago, she said. It funded a feasibility study of the lake last year and was hoping to get money for cleanup this year. But the state's financial situation prohibited that plan.

The weed harvesting will be performed by William Enser of Berkshire Aquatic Harvesters of Lee. Enser is a biologist and weed specialist with several years of experience overseeing the cleanup of Lake Buel in Monterey.

Consolati has sent letters to residents explaining the plan and asking for their cooperation. The secret to the success of the cleanup, she said, is working as a group.

Enser said the committee is the first one to attempt a comprehensive cleanup of the lake. He pointed out that the two towns have been practicing weed control individually for about 10 years, using various methods. But, he said, the towns concentrate on their respective beaches, the causeway on the western shore and the boat ramp on Route 20 at a cost of about $6,000 for two harvests per season.

Enser's plan would harvest about three-quarters of the lake, also twice a season, for $8,000.

He said the weeds in the lake are now so bad it is difficult to drive a boat through them.

"They're extremely thick," he said. "You can't navigate through them. You're dealing with an old lake."

Consolati said residents of the lake have already pledged $1,200 of the $8,000 needed to revive the lake. The money has been pledged by many of the residents who abut Laurel Lake.

"A lot of people have been here for a while, and it's really sad for them to see the lake this way," she said. "It's essentially dying, and it's getting worse each year."

Co-generation story found amusing

Eagle 4-13-90

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Front page items in the April 7 Eagle are not meant to be funny, but Saturday's paper was so ridiculous it was amusing. The article by Steve Moore states the Connecticut co-generation plant is very quiet, but the man who reported "no noise" wore a hearing aid!

The article stresses how quiet it is but, "During a visit this week only the steam turbine portion of the plant was operating." No wonder it was quiet. Only half the system was in operation!

Where is there a similarity between a 160 megawatt operation of three natural gas turbines (Altresco) and a plant of 56 megawatts and one turbine? It is like comparing apples and peanuts — you can eat them both. So they are similar?

The Eagle certainly is going to extremes to try to convince the public that a co-generation facility next to a home is just lovely.

CHARLOTTE P. DAVIS

Lee

Pg. A8

Carr Hardware sells Lee branch

Eagle 4-15-90 Pg. B2

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The former Carr Hardware store on Main Street has been purchased by two brothers, Gene Elling, 33, of Lenox and his brother, John, 29, of Great Barrington, and renamed Elling Hardware.

Reopened on March 1, the store is one of two that have been separated from the main Carr operation on North Street in Pittsfield. The former Carr branch in Great Barrington is now owned by Stephen Raser, nephew of Marshall Raser, who operates the Pittsfield store.

Raser's Great Barrington store is now called Carr Brothers Hardware and is independent of the Pittsfield establishment.

In Lee, the Elling brothers are planning a grand opening Saturday with door prizes and a grand prize.

The two men lease the building that houses the business. They purchased much of the stock and have added some themselves at an investment of about $200,000.

Clock added

The facade of the store was repainted, relettered and adorned with a clock. Ray Elling, another brother, did the work in about three days at a cost of about $2,200. The two owners added the clock to the front of the store as part of their service policy, according to John Larkin.

"We're the company who will always give you the time of day," he said.

John Elling said he and his brother envision the store as a customer-oriented place that will serve the independent contractor and the average homeowner as well as the larger construction companies.

To that end, Elling said, he and his brother have improved the paint department, the housewares department and the industrial hardware department, which includes items for plumbers, carpenters and electricians. They have also expanded their garden section to include organic fertilizers and pesticides.

Other services include glass-cutting and key-making. A department that sells fishing equipment has also been added.

The brothers are gradually renovating the interior of the 4,800-square-foot space themselves. Much of it, Gene Elling said, is merely cleaning and sprucing up the interior.

The business employs four other people. It is open Monday through Saturday from 7:30 to 5:30 and from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays.

Derek Gentile /Berkshire Eagle Staff

New owners of Elling Hardware in Lee are, from left, John and Gene Elling. The brothers have bought the former Carr Hardware and spruced up its facade.

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Lee Mass Cogeneration Designed By Experts

Courier 4-19-90 Pg. 5

LEE — The cogeneration plant planned here is being designed and developed by a team of experts who are experienced in the energy industry and in building both cogeneration plants and natural gas transportation systems, according to a news release.

Lee Mass Cogeneration is headed by Howard Hawks. Mr. Hawks and his management team have been involved in the design and construction of a number of multi-million dollar energy projects including three other cogeneration plants.

Several members of the management team began working together with InterNorth, (now called Enron), developing cogeneration projects. Mr. Hawks and several members of the cogeneration unit left Enron after a merger and they formed Tenaska, with offices in Omaha, Neb.

Each project developed is incorporated separately. Thus, Lee Mass Cogeneration is the affiliate of Tenaska, which is developing the Lee facility.

Gary Hoover, vice president of Lee Mass Cogeneration and project manager for the Lee facility, has more than 24 years of management experience in capital and technology intensive industries including electric utility power generating equipment.

In addition to management of cogeneraton operations while employed by Enron, Mr. Hoover headed a manufacturing company, and was employed by Westinghouse Electric for 20 years. He held various roles at Westinghouse, including general manager of the Power Electronics Division. He holds undergradute and graduate degrees from Iowa State University, University of Pittsburgh, and Santa Clara University.

Other cogeneration projects developed by members of the management team include:

— A 220-megawatt cogeneration plant near Paris, Tex. This plant is owned by a partnership in which a Tenaska affiliate has an equity ownership interest and is the managing partner. The plant produces steam for a Campbell soup food processing plant, and was placed in service in 1989.

— A 190-megawatt cogeneration plant near Big Springs, Tex. Working as an agent for the owner, Tenaska developed the key elements of the project, including the power sale agreement, engineering, procurement and construction contracts for a turnkey opertion. It has been in operation since 1988.

— A 440-megawatt cogeneration plant in Texas City, Tex. The plant is owned by Enron and developed by Tenaska's management team when they managed Enron Corporation's cogeneration company. The plant was placed in service in 1987.

The plant planned for Lee will have a generating capacity of 120 megawatts. Its electric generating system will utilize the same proven technology and equipment as plants already in service.

Prior to developing cogeneration projects, Mr. Hawks and a number of the managers at Tenaska were in charge of building the Northern Border Pipeline, a 42-inch diameter, 823-mile pipeline, costing $1.3 billion and crossing five states to deliver Canadian natural gas at a pressure of 1,435 pounds per square inch to much of the nation.

Tenaska principals and employees also managed construction of the Trailblazer Pipeline, 412 miles of 36-inch diameter pipe delivering natural gas from Wyoming to western Nebraska at pressures more than 1,000 pounds per square inch.

A 12-inch natural gas pipeline serving the Paris, Texas cogeneration plant was built and is operated by a Tenaska affiliate. This pipeline operates at a pressure of 575 pounds per square inch.

The Lee pipeline will extend less than four miles, have a 10 inch diameter, and operate at a pressure of 450 pounds per square inch.

Photo by Alfred R. Lenardson

Eagle 4-17-90 Pg. A6

People power in Lee

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

As a member of the Concerned Citizens of Lee I have followed closely the coverage of the conflict between the interests of the Nebraska-based Tenaska conglomerate and the people of my town, Lee. I have found that coverage to be fair and even-handed. However, there is one aspect to this situation that I sorely miss.

Anyone who has attended any of the meetings would have to be impressed with the fact that what they were witnessing was the people in action. Many letters have been written that deal with the facts and give strong arguments on both sides. The reports of the meetings cover the details, but no one talks about the people who are so deeply involved.

What struck me from the very beginning was the fact that these are "ordinary" people, friends and neighbors who have mobilized to battle against what they perceive to be a threat to the health, safety and beauty of their neighborhood. In doing so they have devoted many hours of intense work and study to discover the flaws and fallacies in the Tenaska proposal. They have found a wealth of material that indicates that Tenaska (like Altresco before it) may have lied deliberately, or failed to check its facts, or at least set up its informational materials to disguise and obfuscate the truth.

The people of Lee want the truth and the Concerned Citizens are working diligently to uncover it. It is this kind of spirit that has invaded Eastern Europe and is helping to change the face of the world. I am proud of the people of Lee and I'm proud to be a member of the Concerned Citizens of Lee.

HUGH E. GORDON

Lee

Five South Berkshire police chiefs were in Boston March 8 to discuss funding for police training in Massachusetts with Gov. Michael Dukakis, Rep. Richard Voke, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Rep. Christopher Hodgkins (D-Lee). Shown are, front from left, Edward Finnegan of Lee, Mr. Hodgkins, James M. McGarry of Sheffield; rear, Richard Wilcox of Stockbridge, Michael Kirchner of West Stockbridge and Steven Berkel of Lenox. Courier 4-19-90 Pg 5

Wildes' farm 'cradle of the breed'

High Lawn owners are master breeders of Jersey cattle

Eagle 4-19-90 Pg. B1

By Abby Pratt
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — As she celebrated her 80th birthday this month, Marjorie L. Wilde's achievements in the breeding of Jersey cows were recognized in an article in the national Jersey Journal.

"High Lawn Farm has been called the 'cradle of the breed,' " the article said. "The farm has spawned, borne and nurtured a network of Jersey bloodlines that affect virtually every Jersey herd in the United States today.

"It may be one of the greatest examples of cattle breeding ever witnessed."

The credit for that achievement is shared by Col. H. George Wilde and Marjorie Wilde, his wife. They acquired High Lawn Farm on Route 7 from the estate of her mother, Lila Vanderbilt Field, in 1935. Marjorie Field had grown up spending half the year at the farm and the other half in New York City. George Wilde had graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the Harvard Business School. They had married three years earlier.

The farm, managed by George Wilde, is known in the Berkshires as a source of fresh milk, delivered to the door in glass bottles or purchased in the store in plastic jugs. It has 1,500 residential customers and approximately 100 commercial accounts.

Processed on premises

Unlike many dairy farms today, the hay and silage that the 200 cows at High Lawn eat is grown at the farm, and the milk — 13,100 pounds of it last year — is processed on the premises.

Mark Benson

Marjorie L. Wilde of High Lawn Farm celebrates her 80th birthday with one of her Jerseys, Peter Fast Time.

In the breeding business, High Lawn is indeed regarded as the cradle of the breed, its cows renowned for their high levels of milk production over many years. High Lawn forebears are currently found in the pedigrees of 43 of 45 sires on the Jersey association's Active Artificial Insemination program.

The American Jersey Cattle Club gave its annual master breeder award to George Wilde in 1960 and to Marjorie Wilde in 1977, citing the farm as "the nursery for male germ plasm today." Dairy Shrine, the organization that represents all dairy breeds, recognized the couple with its annual Distinguished Dairy Cattle Breeder Award — the first to Jersey breeders — in 1978.

Her privileged background did not keep Marjorie Wilde from becoming in-

CATTLE, continued on B3

Journal recognizes Wildes

■ **CATTLE, from B1** Eagle 4-19-90

involved in the business of breeding. She has kept abreast of modern techniques, according to one her six children, Lila W. Berle of Stockbridge.

Breeding stock from High Lawn continue to be sought by Jersey farmers with dairy herds desiring to improve production, and frozen semen from the herd is used by several national artificial insemination firms, Berle said. High Lawn progeny can be found around the world — in Costa Rica, India and South Africa, for example.

One of the first bulls to be used in the artificial insemination business was Welcome High Lawn Torono, according to Berle. The bull died in 1962, but she said last year her parents found six vials of his frozen semen in a freezer and it produced a calf, Extra Special, born last year.

The Jersey Journal quotes Morris Ewing, retired senior dairy analyst for the American Breeders Service, as saying the High Lawn herd is unique in its longevity and influence on the breed.

"They've done a tremendous job in breeding Jersey cattle up there," said Charles W. Proctor of Egremont, a dairy farmer who heads the Massachusetts Jersey Cattle Club. "They've worked very hard on production. The genetic capability of their cattle is high."

22.

Conflict heats up over budget hike for Lee's schools

Eagle 4-20-90 Pg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The controversy between the School Committee and other town officials heated up this week as the board approved a final budget figure that is about $120,000 more than the figure the Selectmen have placed on the annual town warrant.

The School Committee unanimously approved a $4.17 million budget for the next fiscal year at a public hearing Tuesday night. But the figure that will appear on next month's annual town warrant is $4.05 million, the same figure as this year. The committee's figure represents a 2.9 percent increase.

The discrepancy — and controversy — has occurred because the town is asking all departments to level-fund their operating budgets. Such a level-funding is part of a plan to avoid an override of the tax levy limit. With a completely level-funded budget, the town expects to make up a $300,000 lack of state funding this year by drawing from its free cash and other accounts.

Bare-bones budget

The School Committee is arguing that the final budget they have presented is a bare-bones one, based on the number of teachers and programs offered. The increase reflects salary raises and increased equipment and supply costs.

But several town officials, led by Selectman William B. Bean, point out that the level-funding strategy does not mean they are anti-education; rather it is the only fair way to ask all departments to toe the line.

District Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski said the budget as presented by the School Committee will enable the district to offer the same curriculum it has offered this year.

"This is the lowest level at which we can operate and still guarantee the students of the district will receive the same programs they did this year," he said. "We could go through and cut again, but we have so little left in texts and equipment that we would be looking at positions."

Zukowski said he estimated that trying to get through next year on this year's budget would cost the district about six teaching positions.

In red already

He added that he already expects to begin the next fiscal year in the red with his utilities budget. Earlier this month, the town increased its water bills by about 50 percent, a jump Zukowski said he did not anticipate because it was not announced in time.

Thus, the budget figure that will be presented in the warrant, Zukowski said, is not enough. It will have to be amended upward by the town representatives. The school district won a minor skirmish with the town three weeks

LEE, continued on B2

Lee budget

■ LEE, from B1 Eagle 4-20-90

ago when the Selectmen, led by Chairman Diane C. Roosa, agreed to allow wording in the warrant to amend the figure upward. Traditionally, sums amended on the town meeting floor can only be reduced.

Zukowski said he is confident the town meeting representatives will accede to the wishes of the school district.

"I'm optimistic," he said. "We had a good turnout of the representatives at the hearing. I believe they understand what has to be done for our children."

Lee DPW

Eagle 4-24-90

■ FOREMAN, from B1

job the best they can, as are all the boards."

Castronova agreed with Bean, but Scully, again in the middle, said that as an appointed board, the DPW is accountable to the Selectmen, who are in turn accountable to the voters.

Stavisky asked if the town would consider an investigation. Roosa said she would, but Bean was unwilling. Selectman Joseph DuPont, who said he was not happy with the way the DPW carried out the April 19 vote, said he would like to see an investigation, but by an impartial group, not the Selectmen.

With the board stalemated, Roosa told Kelly the Selectmen would discuss the matter further at next week's meeting.

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

rancis Crawford, left, and Mark Michaud have turned a part-time bait business into a full-me, year-round shop.

Eagle 4/22/90 Pg. D2

Shop serves anglers, from shiners to lures

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Mark Michaud and rancis "Butsy" Crawford, two cal fishing enthusiasts, have ened Butsy and Mark's Live it Shop off Devon Road.

The two men opened the shop in one-story building that used to Michaud's office for his con-uction business. They invested out $5,000 in their project, in-ding shelves, inventory and stalling vats and refrigerators hold the live bait.

The store's main offering is live bait year-round, according to Crawford. The two men offer seven different sizes of shiners, as well as mealworms, night crawlers and other types of live bait. In addition, the business offers a variety of fishing equipment, lures, custom-tied flies, clothing and related gear.

Formerly part time

Crawford has been running a small bait shop part time for several months since his retirement from the Lee Lime Co. He and Michaud decided to open the store on a full-time basis when the demand increased.

"We were doing this during ice fishing season, and a bunch of people asked us if we'd be open in the spring," Crawford recalled. "So we decided to have a store year-round."

The two men said the store's hours are flexible, and said they are willing to be open as late as they are needed every day of the week.

"We're open from 5:30 in the morning to whenever the people stop coming," Michaud said.

Two Lee selectmen blast DPW

Elimination of highway foreman's job leads to uproar

Eagle 4-24-90 Pg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — At a meeting in which much was discussed and nothing decided, two of the three selectmen last night joined town employees in criticizing the methods and policies of the town's Department of Public Works.

At issue was a vote taken April 19 at a "special meeting" by the DPW to eliminate the position of working foreman at the town Highway Department. The vote meant that Dennis Kelly of East Street would be returned to his position as truck driver for the Highway Department, at a salary reduced by about $1,000 annually.

The above facts were about the only thing everyone agreed on last night, however. Selectmen Chairman Diane P. Roosa, who was at the April 19 meeting, called the action of the board "discourteous and unprofessional" because the DPW did not tell Kelly why they eliminated the position.

Last night, some DPW members told the Selectmen the position was eliminated because of budget constraints, some said it was because the DPW wanted to restructure the Highway Department and one, Chairman Joseph Castronova, said it was because he did not believe Kelly could do the job.

Castronova also pointed out that the vote did not mean Kelly was demoted; it meant his job was eliminated.

Further muddying the waters was a contention by both Roosa and Kelly's lawyer, Arthur Stavisky, that the vote, taken in executive session, was illegal because the board did not have a right to go into executive session.

Lee Town Counsel Jerome Scully, clearly uncomfortable with his role as arbiter between the two boards, said he believed the session was unwarranted but did not want to rule on it until he had further details.

Also at issue was the question of the DPW board's role in town affairs. Roosa said she believed the board should concern itself with capital planning projects, not whether town employees take longer than 15 minutes on their coffee breaks. Roosa added that she could find no documentation of any complaints against the Highway Department or Kelly at any time over the past 13 years.

But Selectman William B. Bean disagreed, saying the DPW was given the power by the town to handle its own affairs.

"I can't go around investigating all my boards," Bean said. "I have confidence the DPW board is doing the

FOREMAN, continued on B5

Lee

Courier 4/26/90 Pg. 2

Anti-Cogen Booklet Issued

LEE — The Concerned Citizens of Lee, a citizens' action group which is promoting the safe generation of electrical power, has published a 16-page booklet that details the group's arguments in opposition to the proposed 120-megawatt electric cogeneration power plan planned for Kimberly-Clark's Columbia Mill.

The booklet will be disributed free of charge to more than 3,000 homes in Lee, Lenoxdale and Tyringham on May 1.

The booklet rebuts many of the claims made by Tenaska, the developers of the proposed plant, regarding air, water and noise pollution, safety of the plant and the high-pressure gas pipeline, and the lack of promised economic benefits to the town.

Eagle 4-27-90 Pg. B3

Concerned Citizens publishes booklet

LEE — Concerned Citizens of Lee has published a 16-page booklet that details the group's arguments in opposition to the proposed 120-megawatt co-generation power plant planned for Kimberly-Clark's Columbia Mill.

The booklet will be distributed free to more than 3,000 homes in Lee, Lenox Dale and Tyringham on May 1. The booklet challenges many of the claims made by Tenaska Inc., the developers of the proposed plant, regarding air, water and noise pollution, safety of the plant and the high pressure gas pipeline, and the economic benefits to the town.

Opponents get intervenor status for Lee co-generation hearing

Pg. B6

Eagle 4-27-90

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Concerned Citizens of Lee is one of three parties granted intervenor status in a judicial-style hearing to be held on the proposed co-generation plant on Columbia Street.

The other two are the town of Lee and Selectman William B. Bean, acting as a private citizen.

Interested party status was granted to Tri-Town Sanitarian Peter J. Kolodziej, Karen Norton of Prospect Street and Gordon Bailey of Route 102, a member of the Planning Board.

Even though his group of 20 residents was granted intervenor status, Concerned Citizens coordinator Scott Dinan bemoaned the tight schedule required by the state Energy Facilities Siting Council for testimony in the case.

Intervenor status allows an individual or group direct access to all documentation presented by the applicants. Tenaska Inc. of Nebraska and Western Mass. Electric Co. are the applicants in the case. Intervenors can cross-examine witnesses, call their own witnesses and present evidence when pleading their case.

The preliminary council hearing took place in Boston on Tuesday. The state siting council has set a deadline of May 9 for the first set of written questions to the applicants and June 1 for the second set. In each case, the applicants will have two weeks to respond. Written testimony from witnesses for the intervenors is due June 22.

Steep hill

Dinan pointed out that his group requested 120 days to state its case, a timeline that was more than halved by the council.

"We're a private citizens' group," he said. "We don't have a lot of high-powered lawyers. We're doing all this ourselves. I don't think the siting council is playing fair with us. These guys are just not interested in regular people playing their game."

Dinan said he and the Concerned Citizens are determined to continue their struggle.

"We knew it was going to be an uphill battle," he said. "We just didn't know how steep the hill was going to be."

Dinan also announced that the group is releasing a 16-page booklet detailing its position on various facets of the plan. It will be distributed free to households in Lee, Lenox Dale and Tyringham.

Lee Selectmen transfer funds for town revaluation

Eagle 4-28-90

Pg. B8

LEE — The Selectmen earlier this week approved a transfer of $3,000 to the assessors' account to enable them to complete a full revaluation of the town.

The town had voted $10,000 for the project last year, but chairman William Derrick told the board that the federal Department of Revenue was in the process of restructuring its specifications for the job. This, he said, meant the assessors had to change the way some of their figures were being presented, from square yards to square feet, for example.

"We're learning the same time the federal government is," he said.

The assessors have been working on the revaluation for about a year. The revaluation includes all commercial and residential property as well as vacant lots. The revaluation is based on 1988 real estate sales.

The assessors must complete the revaluation of the town in order to set a tax rate. Assistant assessor John Loring said the job is about 80 percent finished. He estimated it would be done in four to six weeks.

When the assessments are completed, all the taxpayers in the town will be notified by mail of their new assessments, Loring said. Any with complaints or questions can contact the assessors' office, he said.

1 24

Laurie Forfa

Nursing in '90: Better for all

Eagle 4-28-90 Pg. B1

LEE

May 6 is National Nurses Day, a time set aside to recognize the women and men whose profession is devoted to preventing illness and caring for the sick.

This year's celebration comes amid much more hope and promise than celebrations in recent years. Since 1986, when the national nursing shortage unfolded in such dramatic fashion overshadowing all other health care industry concerns, National Nurses Day has served to focus almost exclusively on the array of problems confronting the profession.

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But 1990 clearly marks the beginning of a new chapter in nursing history. In just four short years nurses can point to the fact that their salaries, a major concern in the debate over recruitment and retention, have risen steadily, becoming much more commensurate with the education, responsibilities and risks that comprise their professional practice.

Of special note is the significant improvement in the issue of wage compression that has plagued nurses for decades. Just a few years ago nurses were pointing to the fact that in most employment settings there was less than $2 an hour difference between what was paid to new nurses with little or no experience and highly qualified practitioners with 10 or more years of

A major challenge ahead will involve a re-sorting of nursing and non-nursing duties

experience behind them. Today that spread has grown to $5 or more an hour, an important reflection of both the profession's and the health care industry's growing recognition of the value of senior nurses.

The nursing shortage hasn't gone away, but nurses have taken hold of the issue of recruitment and retention and have spearheaded a number of innovative programs. Nurses have promoted a variety of four- and six- and 10- and 12-hour shifts which, when mixed with traditional eights, give a wide opportunity to nurses that helps keep many in the workforce.

There have been tremendously creative uses of on-call schedules to provide highly skilled staff for sudden changes in patient numbers or condition while at the same time letting nurses enjoy more time at home when they are not immediately needed. Nurses have pushed for on-site, sick-child day-care programs that help nurses with mildly ill children to balance parenting and work responsibilities. They have negotiated non-traditional uses of sick time such as personal sick days to allow nurses time away from the hospital to refill after exhausting and draining experiences and the ability to help one another out by being able to donate sick time to one another if a colleague is faced with a long or serious illness.

They have gained greater participation in decision-making in institutions and worked hard to improve nursing's image. And while nurses have been strengthening their profession to ensure there will be sufficient numbers of care givers to meet the health-care needs of the public in the future, they have also been assuring quality health care in the present. For while solutions are being sought to the shortage, nurses have rallied to keep beds and services open and to ensure safe, quality care.

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Nurses feel particularly successful in having fought off a number of ill-conceived nurse "extender" schemes — quick fixes — that would have put nurses in the position of supervising large numbers of marginally prepared helpers who would take over nursing functions. Instead nurses have insisted on a more reasoned approach, attacking the root of the shortage and ensuring that whatever solutions are tried protect patients.

The major challenge for the '90s will be the reorganization of nursing care, one that will sort out the nursing and non-nursing duties that make up patient care, and look at systems that return nurses to the bedside for the patient care for which they have been prepared.

The '80s have been a time of turmoil, but also much progress in nursing. National Nurses Day this year marks the beginning of a decade that holds the promise of even more progress — progress that will not only be good for nursing, but very good for the consumers of nursing services.

Laurie Forfa, a Lee resident, is vice president for nursing at North Adams Regional Hospital.

Conflict between Lee Selectmen and DPW board flares up again

Eagle 5/2/90 Pg. B3

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — In the latest installment of the town vs. the Department of Public Works saga, Selectmen Chairman Diane P. Roosa Monday night called for the resignation of DPW Chairman Joseph Castronova until an investigation of the activities of his board can be completed.

Roosa was alone in her wish, though, as Selectmen William B. Bean and Joseph DuPont failed to second her motion. The Selectmen did, however, agree to continue discussion of the situation at next week's meeting.

At issue is an apparently illegal executive session called by Castronova on April 19 to remove Highway Department worker Dennis Kelly as a working foreman with the department. Kelly would then revert to his prior post as laborer and truck driver.

Roosa believes that the session was illegal, which means that any action taken by the DPW at the session was invalid. Castronova, for his part, has said that if he was wrong, he would apologize for the decision, but that the DPW board still believes that the post of working foreman should be eliminated.

DPW members said last week that the elimination of the job is not a slap at Kelly but an attempt to cut the Highway Department budget without laying off workers. The cut would save about $1,000.

But Roosa said yesterday that the DPW under Castronova has been exceeding its authority and thus opening up the town to a lawsuit, which Kelly has threatened.

She said she is merely requesting that Castronova be removed until the controversy is cleared up.

This controversy is the latest in a running battle between the DPW and Highway Department workers. The situation is unique to Lee, which several years ago created the DPW board and gave it broad powers in the handling of matters concerning public works operations.

Some DPW board members, including Castronova, believe this includes jurisdiction over town employees working under the umbrella of the DPW.

This belief has created problems at the Highway Department in particular, where Kelly said morale is low and workers believe that DPW board members are scrutinizing them on the job.

Roosa's point, however, is that such jurisdiction creates chain of command problems.

"An appointed board has to be accountable to an elected board," she said, referring to the appointed members of the DPW board. "If people don't like what we're doing, they can vote us out. If they don't like what the DPW is doing, there has to be somewhere they can go for redress."

Citizen group's statement questioned

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

A letter to the editor from one of the Concerned Citizens of Lee [Eagle, April 13] is an example of how the group does its homework.

These people have advanced the statement that Kimberly-Clark Corporation has threatened the jobs of the Lee Mills employees if the Lee Mass Cogeneration Company project is not approved.

I am a 19-year employee of Kimberly-Clark and a member of Local 78, and have not heard this threat. I feel these people, who should change their name to "Lee Citizens Against Co-generation" should investigate the facts more thoroughly before making and publishing improper statements.

MICHAEL BUKER

Lee Eagle 5/1/90 Pg. A6

Lee co-generation plant to have public hearing

LEE — The Board of Health has slated a public hearing for May 15 on a site assignment for the proposed co-generation plant on Columbia Street.

The Board of Health has not yet announced the site or time of the hearing.

The plant is being proposed by Tenaska Inc., an Omaha, Neb., developer. Plans call for the facility to generate electricty for the New England power grid and steam for Kimberly-Clark.

But those plans have generated considerable controversy in town. The Concerned Citizens of Lee, a grass-roots organization that has sprung up in opposition to the project, has raised a number of environmental and health concerns they believe should be addressed by Tenaska.

Some of these concerns include potential noise and air pollution, traffic control, the health effects of concentrated high-tension wires running through town, the potential hazards of running a high-pressure gas line through town and the plant's plans for the Housatonic river, which now ccall for evaporating one million gallons of water daily from the river.

Scott Dinan, one of the organizers of the Concerned Citizens of Lee, said he believes that scrutiny by the Board of Health may be the only outlet residents will have to address the project. Last week, Dinan was critical of the state Siting Council's timeline for examining the project, saying it was too tight to enable his group to fully air its concerns.

"[The Siting Council] isn't interested in having the little guy in on their game," he said.

Although the Siting Council must license the plant to operate, their mandate under state law, Dinan said, is to license plants that have a minimum cost and impact to the host community. The Board of Health, however, has jurisdiction over safety and health issues in town, he said.

Eagle 5/2/90 Pg. B5

Recycling boxes being distributed

LEE — Members of the Lee Kiwanis Club, assisted by local students, will be distributing recycling boxes and instructions to every home in town tomorrow.

Materials which can be recycled are newspapers, including glossy inserts; flattened corrugated cardboard, white paper, envelopes (except those with plastic windows), glass containers of all sizes and colors, and tin, steel or aluminum cans, lids and foils. Glass and cans can be recycled together. Remaining trash can be disposed of as usual.

Materials which should not be recycled are waxed paper, plastic-coated containers, plastic, aerosol cans, diapers, bottles containing poisonous or hazardous substances, light bulbs, or paper or containers with food still in them.

The town Department of Public Works board estimates that recycling will reduce materials going into the landfill by 20 to 40 percent.

Later this month, the town will announce the date recycling will begin.

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Board Of Health To Hold Tenaska Hearings

LEE — The Board of Health decided at a meeting on April 26 to hold public hearings in order to make a site assignment for a 120-megawatt power plant to be built by Tenaska, a Nebraska developer.

"This is one of the best things that has happened to us," said Scott Dinan of the Concerned Citizens of Lee, a group of more than 1,500 residents.

"We're tired of letting the people in Boston run our lives and we're not going to sit still and have a Nebraska developer or an out-of-state utility company tell us what is and what is not safe in our neighborhoods."

The Friday afternoon hearing began by Tenaska's Boston lawyer threatening the Board of Health and the Town of Lee with a lawsuit. According to Ms. Gentlemen, the Boston attorney, Tenaska would sue for damages if the board did not grant the site assignment.

"This of course is just not true", Mr. Bonifaz, who represents the Citizens, pointed out. "These people (Tenaska) think that just because they have a lot of money they can come here and threaten the town and get whatever they want. The Citizens have placed their futures in the hands of this board because they feel it is the only fair and impartial hearing they'll get."

Although the Energy Facilities Siting Council must license the plant, their mandate under state law is to license power plants that have a minimum cost and a minimum impact on the environment, according to the citizens group.

For 90 minutes, Ms. Gentlemen alternately tried to cajole and strong-arm the board into giving away its authority to assess a site assignment.

During that disussion, Rep. Christopher Hodgkins, chairman of the Sub-Committee on Local Affairs, told the board that they should continue with their plans to hold hearings and not to be swayed by this Boston lawyer. He went on to say that the people in Boston have tried to run our lives in the Berkshires time and again, and that it was high time for the local people to take control.

The hearing concluded by the board setting May 15 as the next public hearing. The location of the hearing will be announced at a later date. Courier 5/3/90 Pg. 1

Brian Sullivan / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Lee's Sooja Wyrzykowski comes through on a forehand during yesterday's No. 1 singles match against Pittsfield's Lisa Wangsness at the Taconic High courts.

Photo by Donald B. Victor

At the Lee VNA health fair at Central School April 28, Jessica kalinowski and Regan Smith watch a demonstration of children's cast-making by Diane Wespiser.

Ryan to become minister emeritus

LEE — The First Congregational Church of the United Church of Christ in Lee will hold a service of celebration and recognition of the ministry of the Rev. Walter S. Ryan tomorrow at 3 p.m.

The congregation has voted unanimously to name Ryan as minister emeritus. This is an honorary title bestowed on pastors in the United Church of Christ on retirement from a lengthy and significant pastorate. Ryan served the Lee church for 14 years, from 1968 to 1982. This month also marks the 35th anniversary of Ryan's ordination to the ministry.

John M. Hyde, professor of history at Williams College, will speak on "Let Us Now Praise," a historical reflection on the ministry of the Lee church. Hyde is a descendant of the Rev. Alvan Hyde, pastor of the Lee church from 1792 to 1833. The church choir, directed and accompanied by Catherine A. Schane, will sing Young's "Allelulia."

Immediately following the service there will be a reception in the Church's Fellowship Hall.

Ryan's wife, Henrietta Ryan, will also be honored for her service to the church. Eagle 5/5/90 Pg. B5

Lee

Recycling Boxes Distributed Today

Courier 5/3/90 Pg. 9

LEE — Recycling boxes and instructions will be distributed to every home in Lee today.

The containers, which were provided by the state, will be delivered by members of the Lee Kiwanis with the assistance of Lee High School students

Materials which can be recycled are: Newspapers (including glossy inserts), flattened corrugated cardboard, white paper, envelopes (except those with plastic windows), glass containers of all sizes and colors and tin steel and aluminum cans lids and foils.

Papers/cardboard should be tied. Glass and cans can be recycled together. Remaining trash can be disposed of as usual.

Materials which should not be recycled include: waxed paper and plastic coated containers, plastic, aerosol cans, diapers, bottles containing poisonous substances, light bulbs, paper or containers contaminated with food stuffs. Estimates are that recycling will reduce materials going to the Lee Landfill by 20 to 40 percent which would translate into new savings of $75,000 to the town. In addition recycling conserves natural resources and saves energy by lowering manufacturing costs.

Anticipated start up date for recycling will be sometime later this month.

Citizens Earn Voice In Tenaska Hearings

LEE — The state Energy Facilities Siting Council has granted the Concerned Citizens of Lee intervenor status in Tenaska's pursuit of a permit to construct a 120-megawatt cogeneration plant at Kimberly-Clark's Columbia Mill here.

This status will enable a group of residents opportunity to file objections to the project. It also assures them access to documents Tenaska submits to the siting board.

90 average frees senior from final at Lee High

LEE — In what could affect every junior and senior at Lee High School, the school committee this week voted to allow students with averages of 90 points or better in an individual class to skip final examinations in that class.

Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski said the request was presented to the school committee by the student council at the committee's regular biweekly meeting. Zukowski said the committee had agreed to the suggestion on a trial basis, for this year and next.

Under the plan, juniors or seniors who achieve a grade average of 90 or better in any individual class have the option of taking that final.

Zukowski said he did not really know how many students the ruling could affect but said that, theoretically, most juniors and seniors could be excused from one or more finals.

"The misinterpretation here is that this is for the top of the top," Zukowski said. "That's not true. Many of our students have 90 averages or better in individual classes. We also have finals in all our classes, including vocational classes and physical education. So it would be possible for most of our students to be excused from at least one final."

Zukowski said that after the two-year trial period, the school committee will review the suggestion and make a final recommendation in 1992.

Eagle 5/6/90 Pg. B5

'Radical element' wins one

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

"Tanger drops plans for Lenox outlet center" read the headline in the May 1 Eagle. I am a member of the Concerned Citizens of Lee and we are trying to stop Tenaska from placing a 120 megawatt co-generation plant right in the middle of town. It amazes me that when a developer does not get his way, it's always the "radical fringe," the environmental or citizens' group that's at fault. Never the developer. Money may mean might, but it does not make it right!

I'm tired of listening to these developers talk about "our" struggling towns, budget gaps and area layoffs that their projects are going to be a panacea for and that will makes all the budget problems go away.

What's wrong with keeping a wet land or protecting 1-inch-long woodfrogs? What's wrong with not allowing developers with megabucks to come into our towns and just take over? After all, we live here. They don't and they probably never will. Don't we have any rights at all? Why do we have to give in to these Goliaths?

Most of the time it seems like we are hitting our heads against a stone wall. After all, corporations don't have feelings or even scruples, just money. But corporations are made up of people who have to live somewhere. Why can't they see how we feel? If the shoe was on the other foot would they sit still to a developer coming into their hometowns?

The residents of Berkshire County can think for themselves. And, believe it or not, we are very educated people. When one "radical fringe" wins against these corporations, and once in a while we do win, no matter how small the victory, we all have won. Congratulations to the "radical element" in Lenox.

SHARON T. DAVIS

15 Navin Ave.
Lee

Eagle 5/7/90 Pg A7

Lee must resolve 2 different figures for school budget

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Representatives at Thursday night's annual town meeting, slated for 7:30 at Lee Central School, will be deciding on a 1990-91 budget that, except for the figure for schools, is essentially level-funded.

In fact, the school budget may be cause for some confusion. The town is asking for a level-funded budget of $4,050,537, the figure that is on the warrant. But Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski and the School Committee will ask that the figure be upped to $4,170,551, a 2.9 percent increase.

School committeemen believe the larger figure is the smallest amount of money the district can expend without cutting programs and personnel.

The rest of the town's operating expenses have been kept nearly level. The budgeted expenditures are $2,141,487, an increase of $62,963 over this year.

But that figure actually represents a general decrease from this year, according to Assistant Town Clerk Patricia Carlino. She explained that insurance costs will jump $85,706 to $725,906, accounting for more than the projected increase.

Other large operating expenses include $256,808 for patrolmen's salaries, which saw no increase over this year, and $92,872 for communications, another level-funded account.

The Department of Public Works' net budget is up about $31,000. In this case, the DPW has to cover a rise of $31,300 in landfill costs.

Representatives will also decide on a number of individual articles calling for expenditures. The largest is for the appropriation of $600,000 to cover the costs of expanding the dump. A total of $200,000 will be transferred from available funds, and the remaining $400,000 will be borrowed.

Other items include $87,000 for a new fire truck; $125,000 for road improvements; $35,000 for a water quality testing program; $3,000 for software for the town clerk's office; $4,000 for computer software for the town treasurer's office; $2,400 to cover the expense incurred by the Police Department for towing abandoned vehicles; and $20,000 to replace a water main at Ferncliff Avenue.

Raises

Town employees have placed a question on the ballot asking for $26,000 to cover pay raises for them. Town officials asked employees not to ask for raises for next year to keep the budget down. This and a second article asking for $2,347 for raises for the town clerk, treasurer and tax collector were requested by petition to let the representatives decide if raises are warranted.

The school district has placed four capital improvement articles on the warrant. They call for $40,000 for repairs to the new wing, $84,000 for a new roof and $72,000 to re-roof the Hyde wing, all at Lee Central School; and $43,200 to replace burners at Lee High School.

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Good friends Keith Killackey, 9 months, enjoys warm weather in sitting outside with his mother, Valerie Shepardson, company with Kodiak, the family pet. Keith was in front of their home on Chapel Street in Lee.

Eagle 5/10/90 Pg. B1

National NOW chief speaks

She asserts pro-choice power is growing

Berkshire Eagle 5/9/90 Pg. B1

By Linda Burchard
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Molly Yard, the president of the National Organization for Women, urged listeners yesterday to vote for political candidates who support women's right to abortion. "We can make a profound difference in this country," said Yard, visiting Lee with abortion-rights advocates who are circling the commonwealth.

Speaking at a fund-raising lunch at the Black Swan Inn held by Berkshire County NOW, she said that politicians increasingly are changing to a pro-choice stance in response to their constituents.

She argued that the veto of an Idaho bill that would have limited abortion rights in that state came about to a great degree because Gov. Cecil Andrus took public pro-choice sentiment into account. The same sentiment helped in the election of Gov. Douglas Wilder in Virginia, she said.

"All kinds of people crossed party lines to vote for Doug Wilder," she said. "All over the country, politicians are changing their positions."

Congress consistently voted down measures favorable to abortion rights until, she said, "the Webster case brought out the fury of their constituents."

'Winning in lot of ways'

Yard said she is optimistic about prospects for abortion rights. "We're winning in a lot of ways."

"So far the most restrictive legislation has been stopped, because politicians don't want to face the voters. It's fine for right now. But I worry about what will happen next year when they won't have to face election," she said.

It is inevitable, she said, that there soon will be an abortion rights case before the Supreme Court, possibly regarding legislation passed in Guam.

"We have to be vigilant," said Yard. "We have to let legislators know exactly how we feel. We have to vote for candidates who believe women have the right to control their lives."

If there are several pro-choice candidates, Yard recommended voting for the candidate who has the longest record of consistent support for abortion rights rather than for those she called "chame-

PRO-CHOICE, continued on B7

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Molly Yard addresses a meeting at the Black Swan Inn in Lee.

Lee Courier 5/10/90 Pg. 20

Cogeneration To Cooperate With Health Board

Lee — Lee Mass Cogeneration is eager to answer any questions that Lee Board of Health members have regarding the proposed Lee cogeneration project, according to Gary Hoover, project manager.

"We will work with the Board of Health to answer their questions," he said.

The Lee Board of Health will hold a series of public hearings in the next several weeks to determine concerns of local residents and ask Lee Mass Cogeneration to address them.

"We are confident that our project is a safe one — environmentally and community health-wise," said Mr. Hoover. "If the Lee Board of Health has questions, we have answers. We have absolutely nothing to hide."

Mr. Hoover said that he doesn't feel that the Board of Health in Lee has jurisdiction over the site assignment of his project.

"Siting an energy facility such as ours is the job of the Masachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Council under Massachusetts state law," he said.

"However, it was never our intention to try and deny the Board of Health its right to have their health and safety concerns about our project addressed. We know they are simply trying to act responsibly.

The Energy Facilities Siting Council, with our concurrence, has granted the concerned citizens of Lee and the town of Lee (represented by selectman Diane Roosa) full intervenor status

Lee High Honor Roll

LEE — Lee High School has issued the following third term honor roll:

Grade 12, high honors: Anita Deeg, David Fitzgerald, Michael Graham, Harold Heath, Jason Kastrinakis, Heather Lorance, Robin Loring, Marcy Naventi, Denise Sires, William Wampler and Jennifer White

Honors: Kristen Allen, Andrea Aldrich, Scott Briggs, Gregg Brighenti, John Cahalen, Jeffrey Eisenberg, Tracy Hart, Lea Hunsicker, Jennifer Loring, Stacey Lynch, Katrina Scapin, David Scarpa, Marcie Skowron and Stephen Tisdale.

Grade 11, high honors: Ariel Collins, Trina Cysz, Michael DiMario and Rhonda Nixon.

Honors: Kathy Antoniazzi, Michelle Bailly, Heather Browne, Cynthia Cahalen, Dawn Davis, Catherine Fennelly, Susan Leahey, Rodney Loring, Michele Naventi, Vanessa Piacentino, Alastair Taylor and Tony Viola

Grade 10, high honors: Rebecca Allen, Cathleen Cincha, Sheila Collins, Paul Consolati, Amanda Lahey, Rena Parker, April Slater, Nadine Souza, Heather Stanard and Richard Wescott.

Honors: Jodi Aberhalden, Nancy Cramella, Rene Corey, Michael Curtin, Betsy Loring, Ralph Olds, Michelle Phillips, Travis Roberts and Kathleen Salinetti.

Grade 9, high honors: Mark Grady, Felicia Piacentino and Karen Scheurer.

Honors: Samuel Fix, William Hallock, Elena LaGrant, Thomas Logsdon, Matthew Puntin, William Roche and Kelsey Scarpa.

Molly Yard speaks in Lee

■ PRO-CHOICE, from B1

leons for choice." And she urged listeners to vote for women candidates.

In Massachusetts, NOW has endorsed Lt. Gov. Evelyn Murphy for governor, and state Rep. Marjorie Clapprood, D-Sharon, for lieutenant governor.

Backs election of women

"Whenever we get a chance, we want to elect a good, strong woman," she said.

During the question period following her talk, Yard said that court injunctions forbidding Operation Rescue interference with women's health clinics, and police enforcement of those injunctions, can provide a deterrent to the intimidation of women seeking abortions and the health professionals who provide them.

People favoring abortion rights "ought to be demanding that the law be enforced," she said.

The opponents of abortion rights, she said, are also, by and large, opponents of birth control. She predicted that if women's right to abortion is taken away, the right to birth control will soon be threatened.

The opponents' mentality, she said, is one of "authority and control."

Yard's visit to Berkshire County came during the Freedom Caravan for Women's Lives in Massachusetts, which began in Lowell Sunday, with destinations in Greenfield, Springfield, Worcester, Cape Cod and Gloucester, and which will conclude with a major rally in Boston on Mother's Day Sunday. The caravan is aimed at organizing grass-roots support for abortion rights.

"We intend to educate and organize voters to make an impact on the 1990 elections," said Yard.

The caravan toured Oregan and Nevada in April, and campaigned in New Jersey, Virginia and Florida in 1989.

Eventually, she predicted, "the Supreme Court will vote to overturn Roe vs. Wade," the landmark case that established a woman's right to abortion.

"Our protection is in the electoral process," she said. One of NOW's aims is to get a Freedom of Choice Act passed in Congress, to make that right part of federal law, she said.

Speaking after the talk, Yard said that NOW is considering organizing a delegation of medical and scientific professionals to France to try to "break the logjam" which is delaying the importation of the abortificant drug, RU-47, from that country into the United States.

She said NOW might set up its own company if no other company could be found to manufacture the drug here.

The new drug, which may be taken to induce an abortion, is not yet available in the United States. But if it is available, it would eliminate the public demonstrations in front of clinics by eliminating the clinics themselves, Yard said.

She said that "any good chemist" can manufacture the drug, and it will soon be produced by the Chinese, is available in England and will probably soon be available in Scandinavia.

She said it is a mystery w
is taking so long to be brou
the United States. If it is
gally imported soon, she sa
will be available on the
market."

Voters in Lee to settle three contests Monday

LEE — Voters at the 1990 annual town elections will be deciding three races for the Board of Selectmen, the Housing Authority and the Planning Board Monday when they go to the polls, open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Town Hall.

Voters will also be asked to answer two ballot questions, both capital debt exclusions. The first exclusion calls for appropriating $710,000 through a bond issue to purchase 25 acres to expand the town dump. The second question calls for excluding $236,013, which will cover some of the town's operating expenses.

The town is excluding the latter sum to avoid an override of the tax levy limit. An exclusion represents an increase in taxes, but unlike an override, is only a temporary expansion of the tax base.

In the selectman's race, incumbent Diane P. Roosa will be facing challenger Louis Failla. The three-way run for a Planning Board seat will see incumbent G. Glenn VanOrman challenged by Thomas Wickham and Margaret Biron. The Housing Authority race has Rita S. Perry running against write-in candidate Dorothy H. Bleivik. Candidates' profiles follow.

Selectman

(Elect 1, 3 years)

Diane P. Roosa, 40, will be seeking her second term as selectman. A 1967 graduate of Lee High School, she has also taken college courses in computer and business management. She is employed by F.W. Richmond and Co. and also owns her own secretarial services business.

Roosa is a registered independent who won the Republican caucus nomination in April. She also serves on the Memorial Hall Renovation Committee, is president of the Episcopal Church Women's group and is a member of the East Lee Civic Association. She and her husband, Ralph, have three children, Todd, 18; Jeffrey, 16 and Stephanie, 11.

Roosa said one of the most difficult problems facing the town is its financial situation, imposed primarily by state restrictions on spending. She said she has and would continue to look for alternative means of revenue to alleviate shifting the burden onto town residents. She also said she favors having a town administrator as well as more affordable housing in town.

Challenger **Louis Failla**, 41, of Fairview Street is a 1968 graduate of Lee High School. He works at Lee Lime Co. and has been involved in politics for more than a decade, having been a town representative and a member of the Planning Board. He chaired that board in 1984 and 1985.

Failla is also a former volunteer firefighter, past president of the Lee Sportsman's Club, past president and vice president of the Lee Volunteer Ambulance Squad and a member of the town's civil defense committee. He and his wife, Kathleen, have two daughters, Rita, 23, and Deborah, 21.

Failla said he is not afraid to ask tough questions and "make sure things are done right. I'm not an eloquent speaker, but I know what has to be done."

He said he is not in favor of cutting the school budget any more, is concerned about the capacity of the sewer plant and angry that state regulations are limiting the capacity of the town dump without offering financial help.

Planning Board

(Elect 1, 5 years)

In the Planning Board race, incumbent **G. Glenn VanOrman** will be seeking his second five-year term. A 1978 graduate of Lee High School, VanOrman is a salesman for Dunlee Engineering. He lives on Sunshine Avenue with his wife, Kathleen.

An independent, VanOrman said he is interested in running for re-election because the board is updating the town bylaws, which have not been worked on since the 1960s. He said he is

Diane P. Roosa

Louis Failla

interested in keeping Lee a residential community that can attract industry.

Challenger **Margaret M. Biron** of Housatonic Street is a graduate of St. Joseph's High School in Pittsfield. She earned a bachelor's degree at Westfield State College and her master's degree in secondary education at North Adams State College. She is a teacher at Lenox High School. She and her husband, Gilbert, have three children, Celeste, 17, and Brendan and Bradford, both 15.

Biron is a former member of the School Committee and is still active in the Lee Youth Association. Her goals, if elected, are to oversee sensible growth in the town, balanced with good planning.

Thomas P. Wickham, 30, of Franklin Street is a 1984 graduate of the University of South Florida. He owns his own construction business, Wickham Construction, and is single.

Wickham, who has relatives here and in New Marlboro, moved to the area several years ago. This is his first shot at public office. Wickham said simple community pride and a desire to contribute to the town has moved him to run for the board. He added that he also understands the town's permitting process as he has been before town boards several times.

Housing Authority

(Elect 1, 5 years)

In the Housing Authority race, **Rita S. Perry** of Laurel Street is a 1945 graduate of Lee High School. She earned a degree in accounting from the University of Maryland.

Perry, a widow, has been very active in community affairs both here and at her former home in Burlington. She is a past president of the Burlington Historical and Garden societies and is on the board of directors of the Lee Visiting Nurse Association.

Perry said her work in nursing homes and hospitals has attuned her to the needs of the elderly. She said she is also interested in exploring ways of finding affordable housing in Lee.

Her opponent is **Dorothy Hitchcock Bleivik**, who will be running on a write-in campaign. Bleivik, now retired, is a 1939 graduate of Lee High School and president of the Brown Court Tenants Association.

Bleivik said she is interested in attending to the concerns of the tenants at Brown Court.

Other town officials running unopposed this year are Moderator Joseph M. Toole; Tax Collector Janice M. Smith; Assessor Edward M. Briggs; School Committee members Edward M. Lahey and Roland M. Besaw; Board of Health member Lester J. Clark and three members of the Lee Community Development Committee: Robin Almgren, Anthony L. Caropresso and George Kish.

Forfa is honored for column on education theme

Eagle 5-12-90 Bg. B2

PITTSFIELD — Laurie Forfa of Lee has been named the winner of a Massachusetts Teachers Association media award for a column she authored for The Berkshire Eagle.

Forfa, vice president for nursing at North Adams Regional Hospital and a regular Eagle freelance columnist, was presented with an MTA award for Excellence in Education Reporting during ceremonies yesterday at the Park Plaza Hotel and Castle in Boston. The ceremonies were part of this weekend's annual MTA meeting of delegates.

Forfa was honored for her piece titled "How To Show Some Respect." The column, which advocates public respect and support for teachers, appeared in The Eagle on Saturday, Jan. 27. Forfa's columns appear on the front page of the City/Town section every fourth Saturday.

Forfa was one of 13 individuals recognized by the MTA for their work. The awards were presented by MTA president Roseanne Bacon, and included newspapers, radio and television media.

Banquet to honor Lee champs

The Lee VFW will host a buffet banquet Thursday at 7 p.m. to honor the 1990 state Division 3 champion Lee High girls' basketball team. Williams College men's basketball coach Harry Sheehy will speak.

Eagle 5-11-90 Bg. D8

Tickets, which are $12 for adults and $6 for students, may be obtained by contacting Donna Skowron in Lee.

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Lee town representatives approve $4.1 million district school budget

Eagle 5-12 4D

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — After a half-hour debate, town representatives at this week's annual town meeting amended upward and then approved a district school budget of $4,176,000 for the 1991 fiscal year.

The representatives also authorized the town to purchase 25 acres of land for $710,000 from the Lane Construction Co. to enable the town to expand the landfill.

Town officials got about a third of the way through the warrant Thursday night before adjourning the meeting until next Thursday at 7:30 at Lee Central School.

The decision to adjourn was made because the representatives wanted to wait until after Monday's annual town elections. On the Monday ballot is a question calling for a capital exclusion of about $236,000. Several representatives said they wanted to know whether the exclusion was passed before they voted on the rest of the warrant articles.

The exclusion will cover town operating expenses. Should it be defeated, the town would not have enough money to finance the remainder of the items on the warrant.

The school budget was the most controversial item in an otherwise well-ordered meeting. The warrant article called for $4,050,537. Selectman William B. Bean explained that the school budget, like all others in the town, was being level-funded to enable the town to get through the next fiscal year without having to override the levy limit imposed by Proposition 2½.

Bean emphasized that those in favor of level-funding were not against education, "but there are families here on fixed incomes; there are people here who just can't afford to see the budget get higher."

Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski, arguing for the higher figure, said the $4.1 million represented only a 2.9 percent increase, most of which was eaten up by insurance and contractual costs. He said the district would have to lay off five employees even if the higher figure were approved. Should the representatives approve the lower figure, 10 district employees would be laid off, he said.

The figure was amended upward and passed almost unanimously.

Unanimous land decision

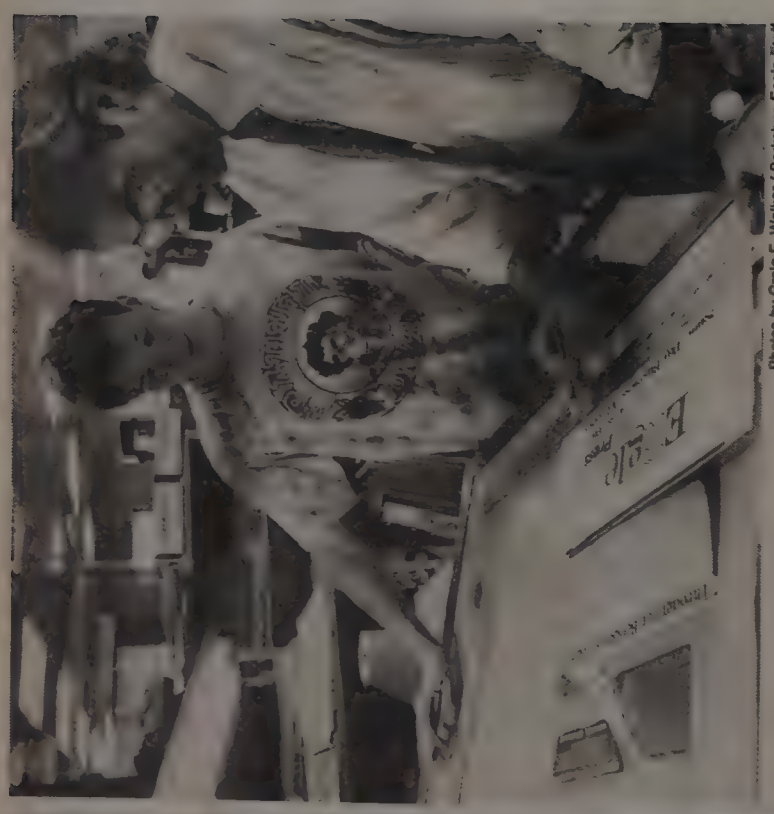
The decision to buy the land abutting the landfill was passed unanimously. Highway Department Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo explained that the actual cost of the land was $1,065,000 but that Mead Paper Co. would absorb a third of that cost, as it was planning to use a third of the land for a sludge dump.

Scolforo explained that the town's share of the cost of the land would be covered by a 15-year bond. The inrease to the tax rate would be about 38 cents per $1,000.

Scolforo pointed out that the town's only other alternative would be to contract with Vicon Recovery Associates in Pittsfield for removing waste. But he added that although being in the landfill business was expensive to the town, not being in the landfill business almost surely would be more expensive.

Although town representatives approved the item, it is a referendum question on Monday's ballot. It also must be approved by voters to enable the town to go forward.

Representatives scrutinized the operating expenses of the town and the Department of Public Works but made few changes. The town budget of $2,141,487 was an increase of only $62,963 over last year, with much of that taken up by insurance costs. The DPW budget of $396,717 was also approved quickly.



Photos by Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Lenox High senior Samantha Caesar, left, works in an office; Lee senior Morgan Segal, above left, works with The Berkshire Eagle's David LeClair. Eagle 5/13/90 4g, 4-7

Lee co-generation: Jockeying for position

Eagle 5-16-90 Pg. A1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Proponents and opponents of a proposed co-generation plant on Columbia Street last night began offering testimony at the Lee Library before the Board of Health in the first of at least four site assignment hearings.

Tenaska Inc. of Omaha, Neb., is planning to construct an $80 million co-generation plant on the site of Kimberly-Clark's Columbia Street mill, along the Housatonic River.

As the controversy over the plant continues, proponents said it would be safe, quiet and clean, and opponents said the plant and its pipeline had no place in a heavily populated area.

Soft coal

The opposition disclosed that Tenaska, when gas was not available, has federal permission to burn soft coal.

Last night saw some jockeying for position. Tenaska counsel Ellyn Weiss told the Board of Health her client was happy to answer questions proposed by residents but unwilling to "drag this out for 12 or 15 months."

Members of the Concerned Citizens of Lee, the group opposing the project, said that more than three sessions would be needed to answer all the questions they had. Cristobal Bonifaz, attorney for the CCL, said the Board of Health should decide the number of hearings.

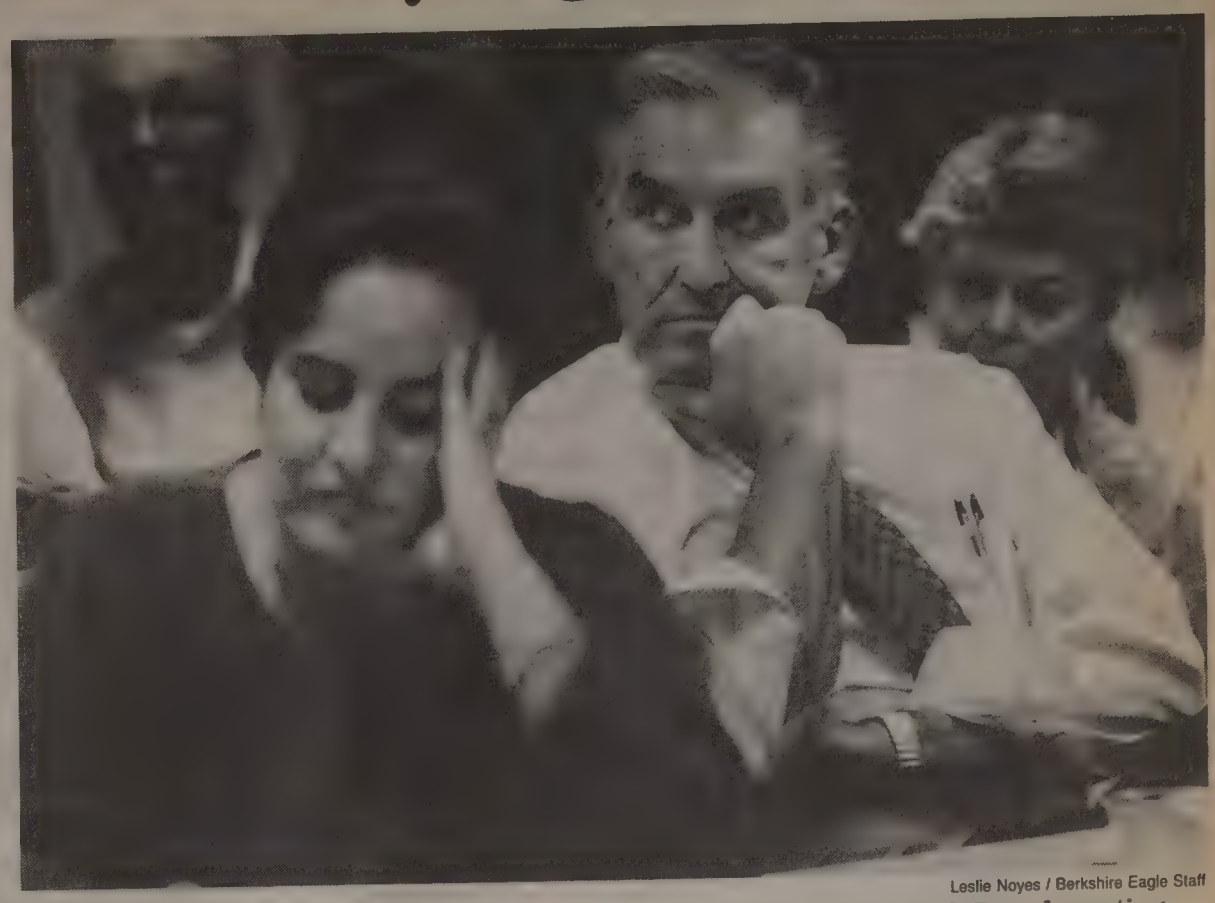
Weiss also pointed out that Tenaska has asked the Massachusetts Siting Council to suspend its deliberations for 60 days until an environmental impact report could be compiled. Tenaska, she said, would be devoting nearly all of its resources to the preparation of that document for the board.

In the end, Board of Health Chairman Charles W. Stratton ruled that there would be at least three more hearings.

When the Board of Health originally proposed the hearings, Tenaska had contended that the board had no jurisdiction over the plant's location. But the board went ahead and set the hearings and Tenaska agreed to participate.

Last night, Tenaska representatives presented a more detailed piture of the project than they did at the site assignment hearing in February.

TENASKA, continued on A6



Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Tenaska counsel Ellyn Weiss and project director Gary Hoover at Health Board meeting.

Board of Health sets more Tenaska hearings

■ TENASKA, from A1

Project manager Gary Hoover said that the pipeline enclosing the natural gas will have five times the strength necessary for the pressure the line will generate. The line will also be inspected regularly, and the gas odorized for easy identification, he said.

Hoover said the turbines will be muffled to cut down on noise and sound-absorbing buildings will be built over the turbines, pumps and exhaust valves.

Hoover contended the emissions from the 155-foot stacks will be ash-free and generate minuscule amounts of noxious gases.

He said the plant will take 1.4 million gallons daily from the Housatonic River. Although he admitted that the figure was high, he said an average of 300 million gallons of water flows by the plant daily. Even in dry times, Hoover said, 95 million gallons flow by the plant.

In opposing the project, Scott Dinan, representing the CCL, stressed the environmental and logistic impropriety of the facility.

Other power plants of this nature, he said, were typically located on the outskirts of town. This plant, he said, was on a site surrounded by more than 3,700 people daily. Its location in a deep river valley, he added, would trap the emissions from the stacks.

Dinan also disputed the cleanliness of the emissions. He said studies by the CCL indicate high levels of carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide and particulates.

Dinan added that as safe as the pipe may be, one accident in the center of town could be disastrous.

He added that the plant also has permission from the federal government to burn soft coal when gas is not available. That, he said, would further affect the atmosphere adversely.

The board scheduled a site visit for May 26 at 9 a.m. The next hearing will be June 14 at the senior center. The change in venue is to accommodate the overflow crowd that attended last night's session.

Last night, the board heard preliminary arguments from both sides. Over the next three hearings, the board tentatively scheduled question-and-answer sessions that will deal with the various aspects of the project. The next hearing, for example, will cover questions on the location and water use and quality at the site.

Lee voters approve two debt exclusions

Eagle 5-15-90 Pg. B4

LEE — Incumbents were returned to office and two controversial debt exclusion questions were approved with relative ease at yesterday's annual town elections.

By a count of 370-171, voters authorized the appropriation of $710,000 for the town's share of the cost of 25 acres abutting the landfill. The acreage will enable the town to expand the facility. Although town officials have been reluctant to get into the landfill business, the alternative would probably be more expensive, according to Highway Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo, who advocated for the debt exclusion at last week's annual town meeting.

Voters also approved, 321-221, an exclusion of about $236,013 to cover the town's operating expenses. This was the more controversial of the two questions, as many town officials had advocated a level-funded budget because of the reduction of state aid this year.

But a majority of voters sided with that group of town officers who advocated the exclusion as an alternative to an override of the tax levy limit that would enable the town to retain needed services.

On the election side, Selectmen Chairman Diane P. Roosa was returned to office, defeating challenger Louis Failla, 611-134.

Incumbent G. Glenn VanOrman won a three-way race for the Planning Board with 313 votes. Challengers Margaret M. Biron received 188 votes and Thomas P. Wickham 180.

Rita S. Perry was elected to a five-year term on the Housing Authority with 473 votes to write-in candidate Dorothy H. Bleivik's 49.

A total of 763 registered voters turned out, which was better than expected, according to assistant Town Clerk Patricia Carlino.

"I think people did their homework tonight, and it showed," she said.

The results follow.

Selectman
(Elect 1, 3 years)

Diane P. Roosa*	611
Louis V. Failla	134

Moderator
(Elect 1, 1 year)

Joseph M. Toole*	621

Tax collector
(Elect 1, 3 years)

Janice G. Smith*	652

Assessor
(Elect 1, 3 years)

Edward M. Briggs*	528

School Committee
(Elect 2, 3 years)

Edward M. Lahey*	546
Roland M. Besaw	385

Board of Health
(Elect 1, 3 years)

Lester J. Clarke*	559

Planning Board
(Elect 1, 5 years)

G. Glenn VanOrman*	313
Margaret M. Biron*	188
Thomas P. Wickham*	180

Housing Authority
(Elect 1, 5 years)

Rita S. Perry*	473
Dorothy Bleivik**	49

Lee Community Development
(Elect 3, 3 years)

Robin Almgren	331
Anthony L. Caropresso	434
George Kish	254

* Denotes incumbent.

Diane P. Roosa
Re-elected as selectman

Meeting delegates grant pay hikes to Lee employees

Eagle 5-18-90 Pg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Against the wishes of several town officials who advocated level funding of next year's budget, representatives last night voted all town employees a 5 percent pay increase at Part II of the 1990 annual town meeting.

Last night's meeting was a continuation of the meeting that began the previous Thursday. That session was suspended after the town representatives decided to wait for last Monday's debt exclusion vote to see how much money they would have to work with.

On Monday, voters approved a $236,000 capital debt exclusion that enabled the town to cover all the so-called appropriation articles, which are articles the town must generate money to fund.

But Selectmen William B. Bean and Joseph F. DuPont continued to stress a conservative spending route. Bean pointed out that the town would doubtless be having a special town meeting in September or October after the state released its aid figures. It made no sense, Bean said, for the town to spend money it may not have.

The representatives went against this credo in the instance of the pay increases, a computer system for the Town Hall and funding for the library. They did, however, agree to pass over several articles dealing with capital expenses for the school. These passed-over articles would be taken up at the special town meeting.

The pay increases generated the most discussion last night. Bean said he believed the voters of Lee did not approve a capital exclusion last Monday for salary increases and argued against it. But representative Edward M. Briggs argued that the police and Department of Public Works employees were covered by a contract. Town employees were not.

"I think they deserve a raise like anyone else," he said.

The raise was granted almost unanimously.

The three articles, totaling $9,000, for the Town Hall computer system were initially passed over. But after a reconsideration vote, the representatives decided to fund the system. Assistant Town Clerk Patricia Carlino estimated the system would save the town from $6,000 to $7,000 annually.

After some discussion, the representatives voted to appropriate $119,535 for the town library. Part of the money would fund a pay raise for the library employees.

Representatives also approved four bylaw amendments. The amendments increased the allowed lot coverage in the industrial zone from 35 to 50 percent; approved the use of common driveways up to 750 feet; designated parts of Devon Road and Maple Street as scenic roads, and limited accessory use of a dwelling to no more than 20 percent of the square footage of the dwelling.

Accessory use of a dwelling is commonly conversion of part of a home to a business, according to Planning Board Chairman Robert Birch. Birch said the bylaw was to ensure that an accessory use would never overshadow the original use of the dwelling.

Other articles passed last night included:

- $20,000 for replacement of 1,100 feet of sewer lines on Birch Street.
- $120,000 for road repairs in town.
- $2,400 to tow stolen or abandoned vehicles.
- $40,000 for sealing the Central School's new wing and repairing the high school gymnasium.
- $43,200 to replace two rotary burners at the high school.

Barrington motor inn is purchased

Eagle 5-16-90 Pg. C1

By Erik Bruun
Berkshire Eagle Staff

GREAT BARRINGTON — Saying they see growth in the local tourist industry, Fred C. and Rita M. Chittenden of Lee have bought the 60-room Berkshire Motor Inn for $1.6 million.

The Chittendens said they have already begun renovating the motel's indoor pool and refurbishing rooms in the Route 7 hotel since closing the deal with the Hari Corp. last week.

"This place has great potential," Fred Chittenden said. "It was profitable before we bought it, and reservations are good for this summer."

Major expansion

The acquisition of the business marks a significant expansion for the Chittendens, who own the 16-room Briarcliff Motor Lodge on Stockbridge Road and 22-room Laurel Hill Motel in Lee.

Fred Chittenden said he has been working as a contractor in Pittsfield but with the slowdown in construction he has decided to concentrate more on the motel industry.

Despite concern among other businessmen in the county's hospitality industry, Chittenden said he is confident the tourist industry will remain strong.

"If the tourist industry goes down, then we're all in trouble. We haven't seen a downturn at all. As a matter of fact it's gone up," he said.

In Great Barrington, he said, Simon's Rock of Bard College, Lime Rock Race Track in Salisbury, Conn., and the annual summer tourist traffic provide a steady supply of guests for local hotels. The Berkshire Motor Inn was recently listed with the Automobile Association of America, Chittenden said.

Chittenden said he was not discouraged by the 4 percent room occupancy tax that several communities including Great Barrington have initiated. Almost all Berkshire towns will inevitably adopt the tax, he says.

The indoor pool at the motel will remain open to the public, Chittenden said.

Erik Bruun / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Rita M. and Fred C. Chittenden of Lee are banking on a successful tourist industry to support their recent purchase of the Berkshire Motor Inn.

Recycling to begin Monday in Le

LEE — Recycling will begin in Lee on Monday, with receptacles for glass, metal and paper in place the town landfill. A landfill permit will not be required to use the recycling receptacles but will still be necessary for dumping trash.

Homeowners with curbside pickup should contact their local haulers for scheduling details regarding particular materials.

Materials that can be recycled are paper (flattened corrugated cardboard, glossy paper, non-window envelopes); glass (unbroken glass all sizes and colors); and metal (tin, steel and aluminum cans and foils). Eagle 5-18-90 Pg. B7

Detailed instructions can be found in the recycling receptacles delivered to homes last week, or the recycling committee may be contacted through the Department of Public Works at Town Hall.

Movie Review
In MFA series, filmmakers find dignity in tragedy of AIDS. Page 67.

Living | Arts

THE BOSTON GLOBE • WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1990

GLOBE STAFF PHOTO / JOHN TLUMACKI

For many visitors to the Berkshires, Lee is only the town at the exit from the Pike.

A 'summer place' that isn't

One in an occasional series of articles on summer retreats.

By Mark Feeney
GLOBE STAFF

SUMMER PLACES

LEE – Lee bills itself as "Gateway to the Berkshires." I prefer to think of it as the hangout of my Uncle Jack.

Jack moved there 15 years ago. He used to live in a trailer just off Route 20, then a few years back moved into an apartment in the center of town above a haberdashery called (appropriately enough) Jack's. It's because of him that I first started going to Lee. And it's through him that I've come to cherish it.

My fondness for Lee, though, does not necessarily stem from its being a classic summer place. In fact, I may be writing this piece under false pretenses.

The idea of summer places mildly appalls me. It's not just that I dislike the beach (though I do). That I have finally conceded the fact that the sun is poison (though I have). That I think music and food best experienced indoors (ditto). Or that the appeal of "getting away from it all" implies some rather unsettling things about the *it* – the rest of your life, presumably – you're getting away from.

"Summer places" is one of those terms that has an aura. Contributing to the aura are such admirable qualities as sunlight, quiet, natural beauty. But what sets the summer place apart from other forms of extended recreation, like a resort or traveling vacation, is, surely, the sense of privilege the term conveys. Leisure. Entitlement. Old money (or enough new money to rapidly acquire a patina). Tradition ("Oh yes, we stay there every year"). A place *we* go to – which also means, a place *they* do not. Hampton Beach, for example, does not qualify – certain appearances to the contrary notwithstanding.

Now, much of the reason I'm so hard on "summer places" is that I am by no means immune to their charms. I wish. Instead I find myself in the position

LEE, Page 69

See Next Page

Lee: the Berkshires 'summer place' that isn't

■ LEE

Continued from Page 65

of the Flannery O'Connor heroine who realizes, "She could never be a saint, but she thought she could be a martyr if they killed her quick." Some of the nicest times I've known have been weekends at a converted stable off Block Island Sound – a summer place if there ever was one – that the family of one of my best friends has. Or the house on Chappaquiddick a generous colleague let me use a couple of times in the mid-'80s.

No, I do not dismiss bliss lightly. Cranky I may be, but not crazy. For all that I dislike the fuss and snobbery and carrying-on about summer places – the *idea* of summer places – that doesn't mean I'm not as partial to sunlight and quiet and natural beauty as the next fellow. It's just that the next fellow happens to be Ralph Nader sometimes.

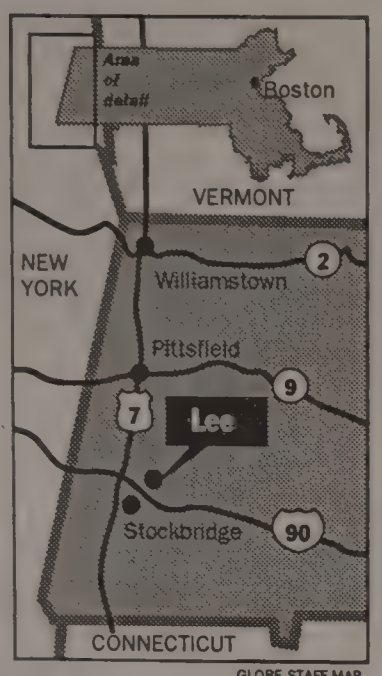
Which is why I like Lee.

Lee is a summer place without being a summer place. Yes, it's lovely and serene and special – even if it pains me to say so – but without the baggage that those qualities can accumulate. The places to go in the Berkshires aren't Lee, after all, but the towns flanking it, Lenox and Stockbridge. They're where the good restaurants are, the quaint or chic shops, all the folderol. The big-ticket attractions – Tanglewood, the Red Lion Inn, the Norman Rockwell Museum, Jacob's Pillow – are in Lenox or Stockbridge or Becket. Even a Lee amenity like Laurel Lake is liable to be ignored in favor of Stockbridge Bowl. For most people, Lee is the town at the exit they take off the Turnpike to get to somewhere else in the Berkshires.

One look at the stretch of Route 20 that runs for the half mile or so from the Pike to the center of town and any urge to linger is likely to vanish. It's your basic strip: gas stations, a motel, billboards, Friendly's, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, a small shopping plaza. And as a sort of fast-food caboose at the other end of the business district, there's a Kentucky Fried Chicken. In this regard, Lee resembles any other late-20th-century American place dedicated to fluorescent blight in the interest of consumer comfort.

Yet in between the Pike sprawl and Col. Sanders comes something quite different: an honest-to-goodness New England small town. There's a 1934 photograph of Lee in the Globe library captioned "A Sedate, Modest Village With a Real Business Street." But for the cars and signs, it might have been taken yesterday.

A small common with benches and a little visitors' booth sits catty-corner to a high-steepled white Congregational church. Next to the church is Memorial Hall, a 19th-century edifice of brick that is a model of unimposing civic substantiality. The other two main public buildings are even more charming. Vaguely Italianate in style, the Central Fire Station, also of brick, dates from 1912. The public library opened four years earlier; it's Lee's gem. "Greek eclectic" you might call its design, with its dual-pillared, pedimented facade, topped by a tile roof and handsome cupola (a glassy modern addition was later added). The library is



GLOBE STAFF MAP

An honest-to-goodness New England small town.

of rock-face marble, the stone taken from Lee quarries. Andrew Carnegie donated money toward its completion. The final cost of the building was $35,000, and the steel baron got his money's worth – "couldn't be matched anywhere else in the country for less than $50,000," a Globe story on the library's opening proclaimed.

That's the stuff anyone driving through would notice and appreciate in a postcard sort of way. Less obviously appealing, but in their way equally estimable, are such establishments as Rossi's Restaurant, with its sign like a rosy-colored T-square, whose waitresses delight in giving my uncle a hard time; Joe's Diner, a truly splendid greasy spoon; and McClelland's Drug Store, a wonderful homey sort of place that still has a soda fountain, with stools you can spin around on. McClelland's is also where you buy your bus ticket. Buses from Albany, Boston, Providence, New York and Pittsfield all stop at Lee – bus stops being a good sign to summer place-oppressed people like me. Saner souls who *like* summer places can find fancy dining and such at the Morgan House.

Lee has a stationery store called Paperdilly. Perhaps Paperdilly is a chain and so not unique to Lee. I do not know. Either way, I have long prized the name. There's also a Price Chopper supermarket – that *is* a chain, I know – which is another name I like a lot. Best of all, nominally speaking, the Housatonic runs through Lee. Does any river in America have a better name than "Housatonic"? And even if it were named something else – the "No-newtaxes," say, or the "Conrans" – the Housatonic has the distinction of being the name of the first ship to be sunk by a submarine (an act perpetrated by the Confederate navy on Feb. 17, 1864, off Charleston, S.C.).

Of course, the Housatonic also figures in Charles Ives' "Three Places in New England," the third part of which Ives called "The Housatonic at Stockbridge." But Stockbridge is definitely a *summer place*, and . . . oh, don't get me started.

Eagle 5-18-90 Pg. F 10

'Taxes are not evil'

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

As town and state budgets are on the minds of most people this time of year, a favorite cliche of some is that we must "learn to live within our means." Massachusetts is the third wealthiest state in the union, so, I guess I agree we should indeed learn to live within our means. Having "killer" budgets proposed that literally will devastate programs necessary for the "common good" of our citizens is a travesty which is unnecessary and avoidable. The shortsighted mentality of the immediate bottom line concern has given life to a myth that taxes are bad.

The failure to fund our present programs not only results in present suffering and pain for those who need health and human service programs, but also will result in a future jeopardized by cuts to education in an increasingly competitive world. The myth must be dispelled, and we must recognize that we have the means available to make the future in which we will live more meaningful: Raise revenues.

Recognizing that there are no perfect systems or people, we know that there will be abuses in the public sector as there are in the private. When this happens, to use another cliche, "don't throw the baby out with the bath water," go after the abusers. I believe it's common to want more for our children than we, ourselves, have had; to provide for the health and happiness of our parents in their later years and to

teach our children how we expect to be treated by the way we treat others.

Taxes are not evil, but there is a dark side to the myth that they are, especially if the myth is allowed to persist to the point where people begin to believe it's real. Our inheritance has been a social contract of concern for the commonwealth of our citizens; it should be extolled as good and virtuous. If the myth continues, our legacy will be one of empty promises and deceit. Let's decide to fund the future!

NEIL CLARKE
73 Orchard St.
Lee

Mr. Clarke is president of the Lee Education Association.

Recycling Begins

Courier 5-17-90 Pg. 7

LEE — Recycling will begin here May 21. Receptacles for glass, metal and paper will be at the town landfill. A landfill permit will not be required to use the recycling receptacles, but will still be required to bring trash to the regular landfill.

Homes with curbside pickup should contact their local haulers for scheduling details regarding particular materials.

Materials which can be recycled include paper (flattened corrugated, glossy paper, non-window envelopes), glass (unbroken glass all sizes and colors) and metal (tin, steel and aluminum cans and foils).

Lee

Courier 5-17-90 Pg. 12

Roosa Re-elected

LEE — Incumbent Selectwoman Diane P. Roosa was returned to office in Monday's election with 611 votes to challenger Louis V. Failla's 134.

Also elected were Joseph M. Toole, moderator; Janice G. Smith, tax collector; Edward M. Briggs, assessor; Edward M. Lahey and Roland M. Besaw, school committee; and Lester J. Clark, Board of Health.

G. Glenn Van Orman was elected to the Planning Board over Margaret M. Biron and Thomas P. Wickham.

Erik Bruun / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Robert W. and Charlotte Lester say they won't miss the 60-hour weeks involved in operating Marble Hardware.

Lee's oldest hardware store closing

Eagle 5-18-90 By Erik Bruun 8g.C1
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Marble Hardware store — the oldest hardware business in town — will close this summer and be converted into an ice cream shop and retail store run by the Transitional Apartment Program.

Robert W. and Charlotte Lester, who have run the store for almost 20 years, said they are giving up the hardware business to find more time for themselves.

"It's time," said Robert Lester, who is 63. "Sixty hours a week is enough. I don't want to work until I drop dead. There's a little more to life than just working."

Sole employees

The couple operate the store at 54 Main St. on their own. The hardware store, which was founded in 1911, has no employees other than themselves.

"Put it this way, last week when I was making dinner I said 'If we can't put it in the microwave oven, we're not eating.' It just takes too much time," Charlotte Lester said.

Since taking over the store in 1971, the Lesters doubled its size to cover two storefronts. They said the business has changed over the years with an increasing amount of paperwork and reliance on national hardware distributors.

"It used to be fun," said Robert Lester, who is the town's building inspector. "If somebody came into this business 25 years ago and came in again today, he wouldn't be able to do it. It's just so different."

Michael McManmon, director of the Transitional Apartment Program, said the agency plans to convert the hardware store into an ice cream shop geared to local youths and a retail store selling toys, art supplies and sports equipment.

The Transitional Treatment Program assists troubled young adults who have learning problems by training them in basic life and job skills. The two new businesses would employ clients of the program in a venture similar to DeSisto School's training program at Cherry's Coffee Break restaurant in Lenox.

Finding niches

In developing the new businesses, McManmon said the agency is trying to avoid competing with existing businesses by finding commercial niches. The ice cream shop would be similar to an old-time soda fountain, he said, and will be intended primarily for young people.

"Being in a small town we thought we'd have a variety of things to fill the gaps," he said of the retail store. "In that downtown block, people will be able to get whatever they want without going out of town."

McManmon estimated the program would do about $100,000 in renovations, including improvements on the building's facade. Neither McManmon nor the Lesters would reveal the selling price of the building, which has not been recorded yet at the Registry of Deeds.

C.D. Nelsen

Mass.-Mex

Pg. B1
Eagle 5-19-90

LEE

Last month, I tagged along with almost 30 teens on a trip through Mexico. I needed a real spring break. It was time to be a stranger in a strange land, again — to go somewhere they didn't speak the same language, where our state fiscal crunch would seem like a distant nightmare.

I'd been to the pyramids, high rises, and tropical flower heat a few times before. This time, the begging children, mothers and grandmothers freaked me out even more than before. Our guide told us that there was no welfare or social security in Mexico. People hustled everything on every corner just to eat, and the old female ones with no energy to hustle goods anymore just stretched out skinny, empty hands while children and babies all around them stared you down with those big, empty eyes.

As the saying goes, the money was soft, the toilet paper hard. It took nearly 3,000 pesos to equal one dollar. Several teens were suddenly millionaires. It lasted until they met the first vender or two. As many times as I borrowed my roomie's calculator, I never stopped shuttering when I heard how high a price was, then feeling like I'd made a bargain once I'd converted it back to dollars.

■

On earlier trips, the contrasts also stunned me. Our tackiest T-shirts and fly-by-night fads seemed fed back to us brightened to an unbearable hue. I remember Hitler T-shirts and comics, a blaring pink plastic toilet seat radio with Mickey Mouse on its lid. All this amplified sleaze was balanced by Mayan women wearing their traditional embroidery who wouldn't beg, who didn't want their pictures taken, whose braids looked as royal as the temples their ancestors built. There were children with only one set of clothes washed clean in a river with rocks, cleaner than any machines could wash them. Lush flowers offset the litter. Endless stone carvings of warriors, gods and goddesses flashed by outside subway windows.

On an earlier trip, to Belize, I stayed in a Mayan hut where the floor was dirt and the twig walls were partially unfinished. The dirt was swept and patted tight, the hammocks put away during the day. There were simple scoops of wood carved into seats. This wasn't the cliche of Third World poverty usually brought to mind. The hut of the village wise man in this Mayan village was efficient and dignified.

He was alarmed not only by the soldiers just over the border in Guatemala. He was shocked by changes right there in his own village. The men worked on government projects instead of their own land. They used the money to buy booze and mistreated their wives. His own son demanded his daughter-in-law produce a male offspring. When she couldn't, her position was in jeopardy. She could be replaced with another wife who might bear a boy baby.

Creating as many children as possible seems a custom in Mexico, too. No matter how poverty-stricken, families hope more children will bring more income and joy. A strong majority of Mexicans are Roman Catholic, and they take their religion seriously. When the pope reminded them recently that birth control was against church policy, they listened. Government attempts to control population had little effect when El Padre spoke.

■

Closer to home, we produce fewer children per family, but our system is in its own kind of trouble. Citizens are outraged by taxes, with good reason. Rates have shot up fast and income don't match them. We see ourselves sinking down, our cushy life with lots of conveniences endangered.

No matter what language, the handwriting on the wall is clear. If we don't want children sleeping on the streets in droves while their parents beg us to buy, if we don't want them desperately walking the beach to hawk T-shirts and gum, we've got to keep investing in the future.

The alternative to welfare and other social services is poverty, especially for the women and children. A mother in our state gets only two-thirds of what she needs to feed her family. She is punished for taking a part-time job, so she must lie and take employment under the table to survive.

Right now, the basic services of our school districts are threatened by deep cuts. Warehousing the young in huge classes will not educate them well enough to keep them off the streets. Programs to the elderly, abused, and homeless are all threatened, too.

And without reproductive freedom for women, the situation will worsen.

If you're one who still shouts about government waste and handouts, or one who says, "Let each family and church take care of its own," you'd better be ready for a change in our landscape. Be ready to see begging hands and big sad eyes on more of our streets, maybe even your own.

Mead unveils co-generation plans

Eagle 5-18-90
Pg. A1

By Lewis C. Cuyler
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Mead Corp. became the third Berkshire company yesterday to form an affiliation with a co-generation plant as a means of lowering its energy costs.

During an early morning coffee-and-doughnuts briefing, David L. Klausmeyer, president of the company's Specialty Paper Division, announced the Mead's sponsorship of a 56-megawatt plant on the west side of its Laurel Mill on Route 102. The plant — the second proposed in Lee — will cost between $50 million and $55 million.

The briefing was attended by about 40 people, many of them town officials.

The announcement was not a surprise. Mead had made it known in 1987 that it planned such a facility.

Elsewhere in Berkshire County, there is one co-generation plant already up and two others being planned.

In Pittsfield Altresco Inc. is about to complete a $175 million, 160-megawatt facility that will provide steam for GE and electricity to the Massachusetts Electric Co. At the moment, its start-up date is in doubt because of intense community opposition to the installation of a pipeline to bring it fuel.

In Lee, Tenaska Inc. proposes to spend $80 million for a 120-megawatt plant at Kimberly-Clark's Columbia Mill at the opposite end of the town from the Mead site. It would generate electricity for Commonwealth Electric Co. on Cape Cod.

In North Adams, the Meridian Power Corp. is proposing an $85 million, 125-megawatt plant that would sell steam to Williams College or other customers — depending on the site it selects.

All would burn gas

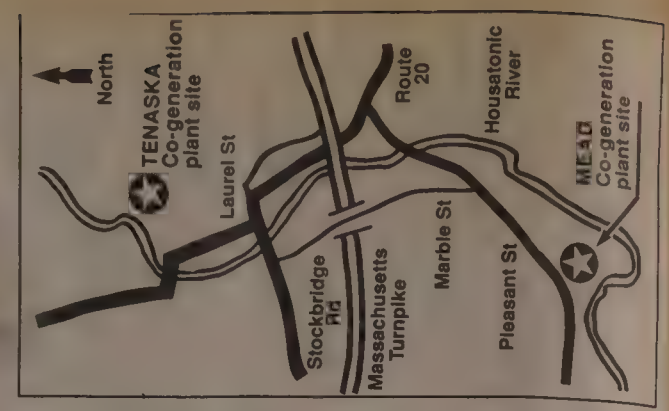
All of the plants would use natural gas as fuel for their turbines. The exhaust gases from the turbines would be used to create steam.

The Kimberly-Clark plant is controversial particularly because of the pipeline route that goes through a heavily populated area. Opponents to the Altresco plant, both in Pittsfield and Richmond, have raised similar pipeline concerns.

In Pittsfield, the controversy became acute when the plant's three smokestacks rose to 208 feet, 83 feet higher than initially proposed, because of a miscalculation about the building's size. Neighbors are also concerned about PCB contamination in the site area next to the GE complex.

Klausmeyer and Frank Wright, vice president of O'Brien Energy Systems of Philadelphia, which

PLANT, continued on C5



Mead unveils plans

■ PLANT, from A1

will underwrite the project, made a pointed effort to alleviate similar concerns about their project. The Mead plant, they said, would tap into an existing pipeline on plant property so would require no new pipeline construction.

They also said the plant will be designed "to blend into the environment" on Route 102 and would not be obtrusive. It will be set back 500 feet from the road, they said, will be 40 feet high with one section of the building 65 feet high. The single smokestack will rise from 130 to 150 feet, or 20 to 40 feet higher than the existing water tank.

Architectural harmony

The nearby Laurel Mill is 26 feet high, and the Morart mill 30 feet high. The looks of the plant will also harmonize with the architecture of the existing buildings, they said.

In his introductory remarks, Klausmeyer said that the Specialty Paper Division's vision "is to be a world-class leader by continually improving the quality and service to the decorative and specialty paper markets we serve."

He said the company's primary costs are for raw materials, 73 percent; labor, 11.4 percent; and energy, 6.3 percent; with energy offering the area for the greatest savings.

"Cost effectiveness is one of our critical factors for success," he said. "We can't stop improving. We have to continue to make a profit to fund these improvements that give us the ability to compete."

Lewis C. Cuyler

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

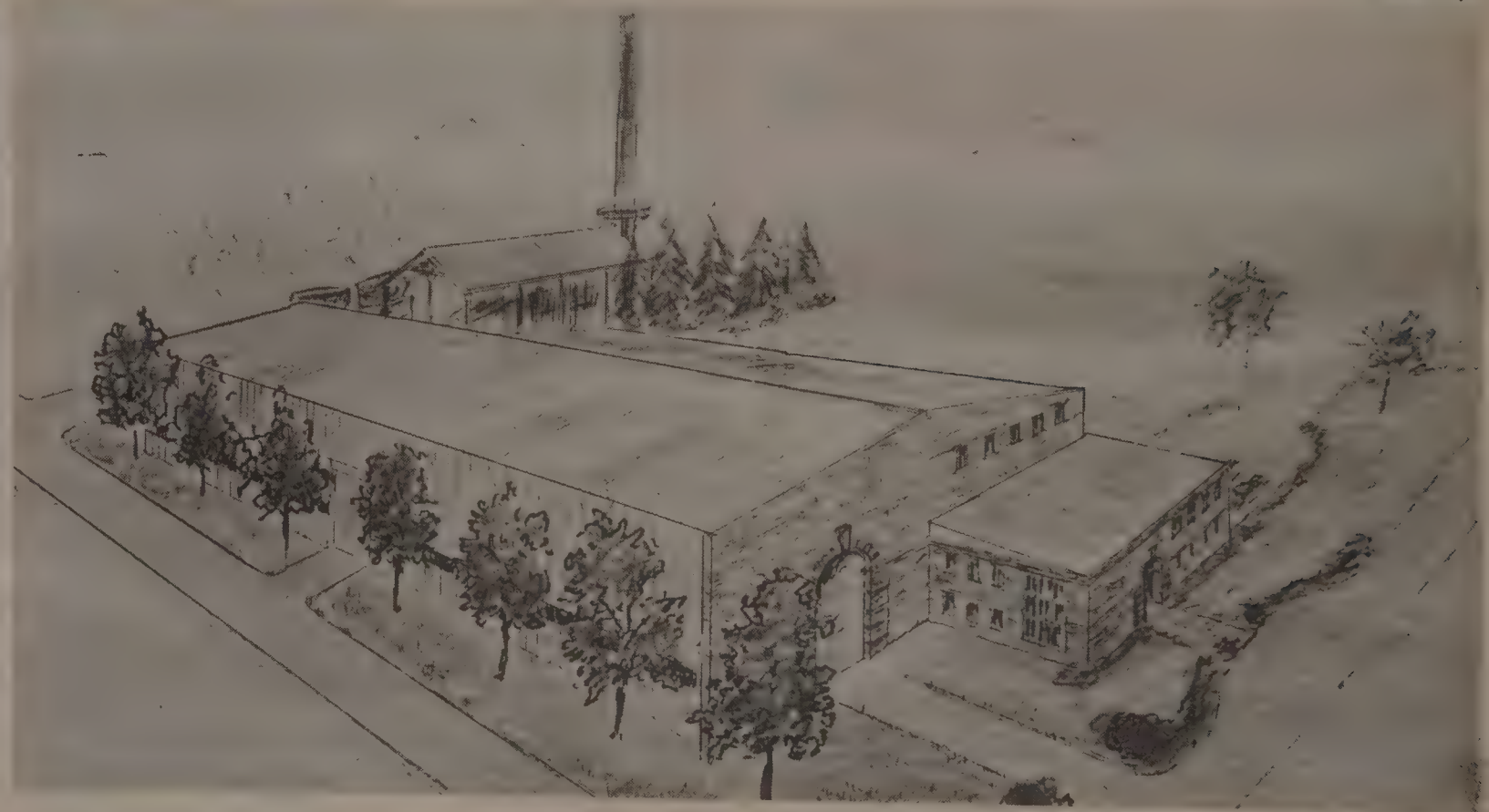


Photo at top is of Mead's Laurel Mill, where the co-generation plant would be built in the foreground. The drawing at the right is of the co-generation plant, with a brick front designed to blend in with the old mill architecture. Pictured above is Frank Wright, vice president of O'Brien Energy Systems, project underwriter.

mation," the briefing was pregnant with facts and figures. Among them:

maintenance, meaning that No. 2 fuel oil would be burned during that week to provide steam from

ground oil storage tanks with more environmentally sound above-ground tanks, a step that John Genzabella, vice president of operations, said would have to be taken anyway.

From Page 33

"Co-generation," he said, "provides us with distinct energy savings."

In addition, he said, the co-generation plant will result in substantial air-quality improvement because it will replace two steam boilers that use No. 6 fuel oil, a much dirtier fuel than natural gas. Steam from the plant will be used in three mills, the adjacent Morart and Laurel Mills and the older Willow Mill, about a mile west on Route 102.

Despite the fact that Klausmeyer said Mead is "at the beginning of the process and [doesn't] yet have all the information

Page 33

► The electricity will be sold to Massachusetts Electric Co., going over lines owned by Western Mass. Electric Co. Those lines will be on existing poles on Route 102 or follow a new route along the railroad tracks. The power will be boosted near the high transmission lines so the lines from the plant will be of normal size and looks. The electrical interconnection will be at the Pleasant Street substation in Lee.

► Natural gas will be purchased from Distrigas, a company near Boston. An agreement has been reached to obtain the gas 365 days a year, but the plant will be shut down for one week for the older boilers.

► Gas will be transported through an existing 800-pound-per-square-inch pipeline which already runs through the Mead property. Gas will be reduced to 400 pounds per square inch at a meter station on Mead property and then transported to the plant.

► An 8-inch line for steam and a 3-inch condensate return line will connect the Laurel and Willow mills. The pipeline will be buried.

► The plant will use approximately 475,000 gallons of water from the Housatonic River each day. The O'Brien company estimates this is one-tenth of 1 percent of the average flow level of the river and 1 percent of the flow during low conditions.

► Between 125 and 150 people will be employed during the plant's construction phase; 18 to 22 will be employed in its operations.

► O'Brien Energy Systems, a Philadelphia company, is underwriting the cost, with Mead leasing the land and paying for the steam. The company was founded in 1915 and has completed five co-generation plants in the last two years including one in the middle of Los Angeles.

► The plant will be soundproofed, with tests taken to ensure noise does not exceed regulatory limits.

► The plant will not hook into an existing 36-inch pipeline that serves Lee, a concern expressed by Selectman William D. Bean. The plant is being designed for Mead only. Answering another question from Bean, Wright said that contractually it would be impossible for one plant to serve both Mead and Kimberly-Clark.

► The plant has no intention of seeking a permit to burn coal as a backup fuel.

► Mead is replacing under-

► Mead has mailed 3,300 information booklets about the plant to residents of Lee.

► Work on the environmental impact report will begin in June, permits will be sought during the balance of the year with approvals expected by early 1991. Construction will take a year to 18 months with the expectation of having the plant on line by mid-1992.

Mead Specialty Paper Division produces saturating papers for decorative and industrial laminates for companies that make surfaces for countertops, furniture and paneling. The company also makes technical papers used for testing and analysis, as well as consumer products such as coffee filters. The company traces its origin to 1806. Mead became involved in 1958 when it bought the former Hurlbut Paper Co. in South Lee.

The company employs approximately 340 people with annual payroll and benefits totaling more than $14 million.

Success story

As other condominium projects grapple with financial troubles, the Ponds at Foxhollow has become a success story of how owners willing to invest time and money can survive a development's demise.

Page 17

Indeed, Wolf, who owns a plumbing and heating firm in West Hartford, Conn., said owners of time shares in other projects, including the faltering Oak n' Spruce development in Leo, have been seeking his advice recently.

In the time-sharing system, a developer sells the right to use a condominium unit for one week during the year.

Setting aside one week for cleaning, a single unit thus has 51 buyers; depending on the development, each one either buys a 2 percent ownership share in the unit or gets a long-term lease agreement good for one week during the year.

Asking questions

That means people who buy a time-share unit should first ask themselves and the developer tough questions about the project's chances for survival, he said.

When enough units are sold, however, the strength of the owners association becomes as important as the strength of the developer, Kleine said.

The owners association takes over maintenance of the grounds and weekly cleaning of each unit, collects fees from users, keeps track of whether owners plan to use their upcoming intervals and helps them rent out their unit if they are not.

Sometimes, the association must raise maintenance fees that the developer had set too low as an inducement to buyers.

Strong management is more important in time-shares than standard condominiums, Kleine

New lawsuit against Foxhollow

■ NEW CLAIMS, from A1

Rhinebeck, N.Y., was the second limited partner and was director of the spa until last summer.

Altshuler maintains that the claims against him are really debts owed by the Foxhollow Wellness Spa partnership.

"We keep going to court getting them dismissed," he said Friday, "but it costs a fortune to get attachments dismissed. As soon as I stop fighting attachments, the bank has to proceed to foreclosure."

Potential buyers

But yesterday, he said he just learned about a group of potential buyers.

Altshuler and Manger purchased the closed Foxhollow School in 1977 for $650,000. They built 44 Lakeside Condominium units, 48 time-share units and 36 additional condominium hotel units in 1988.

The hotel units, which were nearly completed when the spa closed and work ceased this fall, are the only ones affected by the foreclosure, the bank said.

The Center Inc. also built a health facility for condominium owners and inn guests, with a restaurant, sauna and swimming pool, in the mansion formerly owned by Mrs. Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt.

A fire, judged to have started in the sauna area, gutted the mansion in February 1987, and the developers began work on an even more lavish wellness facility to replace it.

Foxhollow ran into financial trouble in late 1988. The Krieger-Rechtschaffen-Altshuler partnership took over The Center's debts in January 1989 and entered a lease to use the premises.

Under the agreement, which was complicated enough to require 101 separate closing documents, the spa partnership was also supposed to pay for Manger's shares, Altshuler said.

But Krieger was relying on attracting new investors, either through a public stock offering or a private debt placement, according to documents recently made public in Superior Court that also mention a group of Denver investors.

Krieger was able to raise only a fraction of what was needed, Altshuler said. Krieger declined comment on the investment when reached yesterday at his Saugerties, N.Y., home.

After Foxhollow Wellness Spa closed in September, Gerald and Lee Katzoff of Philadelphia, principals in Stuart Properties Inc. and owners of spas in Florida and Texas, emerged as hopeful buyers.

But when the proposed sale became public in September, the Pittsfield law firm of Cain, Hibbard, Myers & Cook sued The Center Inc. for $110,000 in unpaid legal fees, claiming the Stuart sale agreement made no arrangement for paying the lawyers.

After Cain, Hibbard gained a real estate attachment, the Katzoff deal collapsed, but Altshuler said he would expect to see the couple at a foreclosure auction.

Manger said yesterday he does not know how the situation will be sorted out. He said he sold out his share in the development many years ago and is no longer a partner, but Altshuler said Manger is still a partner because he has not been paid for his shares in The Center.

Manger said his son, Philip, once had an interest in Foxhollow but no longer does.

Philip Manger also helped develop the Village at October Mountain condominiums in Lee, which Berkshire County Savings Bank took over in 1988, as well as condominiums and subdivisions elsewhere in Berkshire County that are being foreclosed now by Berkshire County Savings Bank.

No date has been set for Bank of New England's Foxhollow foreclosure auction, and it could take a long time for that to happen because the Massachusetts Land Court has a big backlog of foreclosure requests.

When asked Friday about the status of the Foxhollow foreclosure, a Land Court clerk said, "Call back in a month."

Derek Gentile / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Arthur and Linda Segal of Lee have opened Carriage Trade Antiques on Under Mountain Road, Sheffield.

Eagle 5-20-90 Pg. F3

New shop features utilitarian antiques

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

SHEFFIELD — Carriage Trade Antiques, a shop specializing in useful antiques and collectibles, has opened on Under Mountain Road, about a mile south of Berkshire School.

The shop is owned by Arthur and Linda Segal, a transplanted Manhattan couple who moved to Lee a few years ago. They own the Kingsley Bed and Breakfast there.

Arthur Segal said they had operated a small antiques shop out of the bed and breakfast, but when the inventory grew too large they decided to give the antiques business its own location.

They chose a turn-of-the-century barn that was once attached to a nearby inn. Segal said the effort to convert the 2,500-square-foot space took several months and about $10,000.

The couple describe their wares, which range from vintage clothing to eclectic furniture and knickknacks, as "user friendly." This is because, Segal said, they try to purchase 18th and 19th century items that are still utilitarian.

"We don't like to get things that just sit around," Linda Segal said. "It's better if we can sell something that's useful."

Ultimately, the couple plan to sell the bed and breakfast, convert the upstairs part of the barn to living quarters and move to Sheffield. For now, the store is open during the daylight hours while the Segals continue to remodel the building.

Lee group to study Mead plan

Eagle 5-23-90 Pg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The spokesman for Concerned Citizens of Lee said his group plans to study a proposal for a second co-generation plant but has no intentions of actively opposing it.

Scott Dinan said he has not seen the plans for the facility, which would be built adjacent to Mead Corp. on Route 102.

The plant would use natural gas to produce electricity for the New England power grid and steam for Mead. O'Brien Energy Systems of Philadelphia would underwrite the cost of the plant, and Mead would lease the land and purchase the steam.

'Just interested'

"We're certainly going to follow its progress," Dinan said. "But at this point, we just don't know enough about it. Right now, we're not interested in opposing it. We're just interested in it."

Mead, which has been planning the facility for about two years, announced its plans formally Thursday morning at a press conference. The 56-megawatt plant would cost between $50 million and $55 million.

Mead officials have made pointed attempts to delineate the differences between their facility and a similar one proposed for Columbia Street by Tenaska Inc. of Omaha, Neb. Tenaska is planning an $80 million, 120-megawatt plant that would also generate steam and electricity by converting natural gas.

In particular, Mead officials have taken pains to say that their construction site is a fairly isolated lot in an industrial zone.

The proximity of the Tenaska plant to the center of town has been one of the objections raised by the Concerned Citizens of Lee, which has waged a six-month battle with Tenaska over the plans. Dinan said the Mead site appears to be a more favorable one but added that he will study the plans.

"Remember, when Tenaska came in to the Town Hall in December, they said everything was going to be just great," he said. "Look how that's turning out."

Selectmen break tradition, elect DuPont chairman

Eagle 5-23-90 Pg. B6

LEE — In a break with tradition that left at least one member with hurt feelings, the Selectmen on Monday night elected second-year member Joseph F. DuPont as chairman.

DuPont has been a selectman for two years, although he has been in town government for 14 as a member of the Planning Board.

Traditionally, the member who is up for re-election is named chairman. This year, that member should have been Selectman William B. Bean.

But when outgoing Chairman Diane P. Roosa asked for nominations, DuPont nominated himself, citing his years of experience and willingness to work with other boards to achieve a more cohesive town governing body.

Bean, clearly rocked, responded by nominating himself, citing his six years as a board member and the time to devote to the job.

That left Roosa in the middle. She chose to second DuPont's nomination, saying she felt DuPont was more experienced and would encourage closer cooperation between the boards.

Bean bristled at that remark.

"No one has ever challenged my devotion to this town," he said. "I'm disappointed and angry. I feel I've earned the right to be chairman this year. I've never been a discredit to this town."

"No one says you are," DuPont said.

But Bean was unmollified. When DuPont nominated him for clerk, he coldly declined. Roosa accepted the job.

"Joe, this is only your second year," said Bean later. "Traditionally, the chair serves three. But this is obviously a personality issue, so it doesn't surprise me."

Lee Courier 5-24-90 Pg. 13

Flower Tubs Are Planted

LEE — Members of the town beautification committee on May 21 distributed, and filled with soil, some 24 flower tubs. The tubs were placed along Main Street on May 23 and 24.

The planting was done in conjunction with the Greater Lee Chamber of Commerce's Adopt-A-Tub project coordinated by Sandra LePrevost, a chamber vice-president.

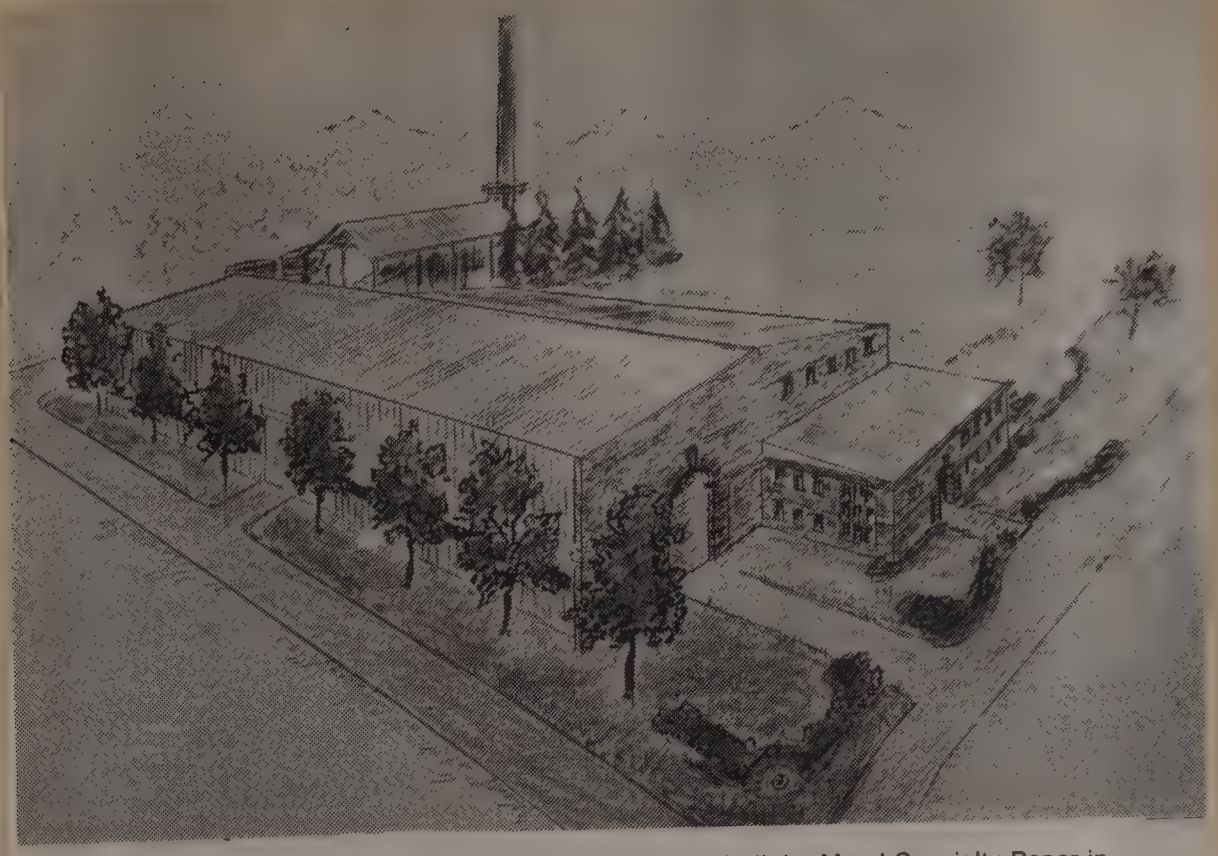
The beautification committee also plans to install four park benches along Main Street.

Town Meeting Continues

LEE — Representatives at the continued town meeting last week approved 5 percent pay increases for town employes.

Voters at the annual election May 14 approved a $236,000 capital debt exclusion.

Approved at the town meeting were items ranging from $20,000 for sewer line on Birch Street to $120,000 for road repairs and $40,000 for work at Central School.



Artist's rendering of proposed co-generation plant to be built by Mead Specialty Paper in South Lee.

Mead Paper Proposes Co-Gen Plant

LEE — Mead's Specialty Paper Division at a breakfast meeting May 17 unveiled plans for a 56-megawatt co-generation plant at its Route 102 Laurel Mill property.

Speaking at the hour-and-a-half presentation were David L. Klausmeyer, president, and John Genzabella, operations vice president.

They outlined the firm's need for a co-generation plant. They spoke of the reputation of O'Brien Energy Systems, the project underwriter, as a viable builder of co-generation plants; and they established the importance of community dialogue and communications through the planning process.

The facility would generate steam to be used in manufacturing at the Willow and Laurel mills and electricity to be sold to Massachusetts Elecric. The facility will cost an estimated $50 to $55 million.

The plant would have a stack up to 180 feet in height. It will be served by a 800 psi underground natural gas pipeline running through the Mead property. There are two possible routes for the electric transmission line.

According to Mead, the project will enhance local air quality by reducing emissions of sulfur dioxide and particulate matter; natural gas will replace high-sulphur-content number 2 heating oil being used now.

In a printed booklet, Mead officials address issues ranging from noise levels (within state standards) to traffic impact (eliminate daily oil deliveries by truck).

Mr. Klausmeyer said that a primary benefit of the plant for Mead is the reduction of rapidly increasing energy costs. He added that most of Mead's competitors in the specialty paper business pay less for energy than Mead.

In the past seven years Mead has spent more than $2 million on energy-saving measures. During the last five years, more than 80 percent of the division's earnings have been re-invested in South Lee operations.

Mr. Klausmeyer emphasized that planning for the co-gen plant is still in the "very preliminary stages. We want to get the public involved even before the first permit is applied for." There will be a series of monthly public informational meetings beginning in June.

The plant would add about 125-150 temporary construction jobs in town, and 22 later permanent jobs. Mead now employs about 340 at three facilities in Lee with annual payroll and benefits of $14 million.

Asked after the meeting how he felt about the Mead project in relation to the controversy surrounding other co-gen projects in the Berkshires, Mr. Klausmeyer said, "We are reassured that our desire right from the beginning to communicate in an honest and forthright way was right."

During the question and answer period, Pittsfield City Council member Peter Arlos, known for flinging barbs, with obvious pleasure observed, "This is more like a meeting of the minds in a mutual admiration society than anything else."

Eagle 5-24-90 pg. B6

Lee building owner told to fix property

LEE — The owner of the building housing Vallerie Transportation Inc. of Marble Street has been ordered to perform renovations to the property or see his business shut down.

Frederick J. Mercer Jr. of Great Barrington was told Monday by Building Inspector Robert J. Lester that landscaping, oiling and screening would have to be done this year or the building would be declared a public nuisance. Lester also ordered Mercer to remove an old loading dock on the building.

"You've had a year to do this, Fred," Lester said, "and I haven't seen one bit of work over there. It's becoming an eyesore."

Mercer protested that he had oiled parts of the road leading to the truck stop and repaired some of the corrugated walls.

But Lester told the Selectmen that most of the work Mercer promised last year was not done.

Mercer told the board he would do the work this summer.

Noise complaints

In a related matter, residential abutters to Vallerie came before the board and complained once again of the noisy late-night operation of trucks on the property.

Vallerie attorney Steven Mathews said he had already asked truck drivers to drive their cabs to the far end of the property to cut down on the noise.

But Mathews admitted the trucks would continue to operate at 2 a.m.

"We've expanded," he said. "We're growing and we certainly have an obligation to our customers. I'm between a rock and a hard place. I want to address the concerns of the neighbors but I want the company to continue to grow."

Truck parking

Selectman William B. Bean suggested the company discuss with Diesel Dan's Restaurant the possibility of parking trucks on that part of the property, which is adjacent to Vallerie's. Mathews said he would do so.

The board agreed to meet with abutters and Mathews in a few weeks to see how the arrangement works out.

In other business, the board granted the Lee High School student council permission to set up a toll booth on Main Street to collect scholarship money for the senior class. Student Council President Marcie Skowron said the toll booth probably would be set up Saturday afternoon.

Eagle 5-26-90 Pg. A.1

Fire kills Stockbridge woman, burns husband

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

STOCKBRIDGE — An East Main Street woman died in a fire at her summer home in Lake Placid, N.Y., and her husband is in critical condition with severe burns.

New York State Police said Mary J. Vinatier, 69, a librarian, was pronounced dead at the scene Thursday night.

Her husband, Albert A. Vinatier, 68, a decorated World War II commando and retired French teacher, is in the intensive care unit in Vermont Medical Center Hospital of Burlington, Vt., with burns over 80 percent of his body.

The accident, reconstructed from sources including police and witnesses, occurred Thursday about 10:30 p.m. The couple had been staying at their summer place, Camp Piney Nook, on the western shore of Lake Placid in the Adirondacks. The camp is on a part of the lake accessible only by boat.

Police said a kerosene heater in the cabin somehow ignited, spraying the cabin with fluid. The cabin, constructed in the 1880s, quickly became fully involved.

Police said a couple canoeing on the lake reported the fire. Neighbors rushed to the site to find Albert Vinatier outside the cabin, his clothing still aflame. He was helped into the lake to douse the fire.

Vinatier reportedly had to be restrained from returning to the cabin to rescue his wife.

Firefighters had to be transported to the camp by boat. By that time, the camp was destroyed.

Vinatier was transported to Lake Placid Hospital Thursday before being transferred to Vermont by private plane Thursday night.

Vinatier retired from teaching French at Lee High School in 1987, although he continues to coach skiing at the school. He now works for the United States Olympic Ski Team, overseeing the development of promising skiers aged 14 and under.

A native of France, he was a commando during World War II, decorated by the French government for valorous service during the war. One of his most notable exploits was his work in the early-morning hours of D-Day, blowing up obstacles on Omaha Beach to clear the way for the invading troops.

He is no less notable for his civic accomplishments. He coached skiing and taught French at Lee High School since 1968. Before that, he taught and coached at the former Stockbridge School and Cranwell School in Lenox.

Vinatier holds a bachelor's degree from the Sorbonne and two master's degrees, from the French university system and from Westfield State College.

Earlier this year, he was awarded the "Officier dans l'ordre des Palmes Academiques," the highest teaching award that the French government can bestow for his efforts in promoting the French language in the United States.

Mary Vinatier, who had been the librarian at the old Stockbridge School, re-established the library when it became the DeSisto School in 1978.

Michael DeSisto, the school's founder, said that she had put so much effort into the library in the several years that she worked there that they named it in her honor.

"It was not the school's library,

FIRE, continued on A5

Albert A. Vinatier

Mary Vinatier dies in fire; husband is badly burned

Eagle 5-26-90

■ FIRE, from A1

it was hers," he said. "She was very devoted. She had a tremendous amount of courage."

Like her husband, she held two master's degrees, earning both when she was well past 50. One was in educational communication from the State University of New York at Albany, the second in library science, also from SUNY-Albany. She received her bachelor of arts degree in 1966 from the University of Bordeaux. She obtained teaching certificates in library science and French in New York and Massachusetts.

She had also been a librarian at the Greenville, N.Y., elementary schools.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Eagle 5-31-90 Pg. B1

Vinatier dies of injuries six days after explosion

STOCKBRIDGE — Albert A. Vinatier, a decorated war hero and longtime local teacher, died last night at Vermont Medical Center in Burlington, Vt.

Vinatier, 68, died six days after he was badly burned when a kerosene stove exploded and started a raging fire in his Lake Placid, N.Y., summer cottage. He had been in the intensive care unit since the accident, in which his wife, Mary "Mae" Vinatier, was killed.

State police and fire officials are continuing to investigate the accident.

Vinatier had a storied career as a commando for the French underground in World War II. It was in 1944 while training for that service, at an American Navy base in Miami, that he met his wife.

After the war, Vinatier spent the rest of his life as a teacher and a coach. He confessed in an Eagle story written a few months ago that he had wanted to be a teacher since the age of 7. He worked hard, he said, to instill a love of the French language and culture in his students.

"He was a very good educator," said Lee Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski. "He was a gentlemen and a good role model, the kind of man anyone would have wanted on the faculty. I respected him very much."

Lee High School Superintendent Richard T. Salinetti said flags at the school will be flown at half-mast today. He said a memorial service is planned for graduation.

Salinetti taught next door to Vinatier for about 12 years after Vinatier arrived in the system in 1968.

"He was very popular with the students," Salinetti recalled. "Many of them stayed in touch with him after high school. He had a large number of students who were very loyal to him."

Obituaries on Page B2

Firm scuttles co-generation plant in Lee

Eagle 5-26-90 Pg. A1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Officials at Kimberly-Clark announced yesterday that the company is backing out of a purchase agreement with an Omaha, Neb., firm for a proposed co-generation project on Columbia Street, killing the $60 million project on that site.

Opponents of the project were cautious about declaring victory in their intense fight against the facility, however, envisioning the proposal surfacing in another form somewhere else in town. And the plant developer acknowledged the company would be exploring other options. That means looking for another customer for the steam a co-generation plant would generate as a by-product of its main function — generating electricity.

Project manager Gary W. Hoover said his company was seeking other sites for the project, but he refused to elaborate "until we have something on paper."

"I'm skeptically elated," said David Olken, a leader in the Concerned Citizens of Lee. "The group hasn't had a meeting yet, so there's no consensus but I'll admit I'm not sure this is the end of this."

In a press release issued last night, Kimberly-Clark said it notified Tenaska Inc. of Omaha that it will terminate its agreement to purchase steam from the proposed co-generation facility as of June 1.

In a related matter, Board of Health Chairman Charles W. Stratton said yesterday that the board granted a request by Tenaska to call off a site visit scheduled for this morning on Columbia Street.

Tenaska had proposed a 120-megawatt facility that would convert natural gas to steam and electricity. The electrical power would be sold to the New England power grid.

One of the principal bones of contention between Tenaska and Kimberly-Clark, Hoover said, was the modification of Kimberly-Clark's air quality permit for use by Tenaska.

The Department of Environmental Protection has strict guidelines to limit the amount of particulate matter emitted

PLANT, continued on A5

Lee school budget

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

The Lee School Committee and Superintendent Henry Zukowski are grateful to the town representatives and the voters for their support of our 1990-91 budget.

We are acutely aware of the difficult position in which the town finds itself. However, we cannot turn away from our responsibilities as elected members of the committee to assure continued excellence in our system.

Unlike some neighboring communities, we were presented with practical budgets from both schools back in October. We spent long, tedious nights trimming this budget to the size voters agreed to accept.

Should next year bring us similar financial circumstances, I shudder to think what this could mean to our system, but I am encouraged by the response this year and we will deal with the future as it comes.

EDWARD M. LAHEY
Lee School Committeeman
Lee

Eagle 5-28-90 Pg. A4

ps co-generation plant in Lee

'I just heard about it, so I'm happy, but I'm not sure exactly what's happened.'

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ave to assume this is situation," he said. ard about it, so I'm I'm not sure exactly ened," admitted Scott of the group. "But I least an interesting

coincidence that everything is happening now, just as we've compiled an extensive list of questions they would have had to answer."

Dinan was referring to an upcoming meeting of the Board of Health, which recently voted to assume responsibility for site assignments for all energy producing facilities in town. The Concerned Citizens had compiled a list of several dozen questions concerning air quality, noise, traffic, impact on local services, potential hazards to residents and the potential hazard to the Housatonic River.

Dinan said the group plans a meeting Wednesday, "and hopefully, we'll have a better idea of what this is all about. We'll talk to our counsel to get his point of view."

The announcement by Kimberly-Clark came too late in the afternoon to contact the Massachusetts Energy Siting Council for its reaction.

A second co-generation plant is proposed in Lee to serve the Mead Specialty Paper Corp. plant off Route 102. Unlike the Kimberly-Clark plant, this one has not generated intense opposition at this point.

Kimberly-Clark drop

■ PLANT, from A1

by industries into the atmosphere within a given area. Kimberly-Clark could not agree on a contract to hand over its permit to Tenaska, Hoover said. The agreement also called for Kimberly-Clark to dismantle its boilers.

"Kimberly-Clark has an agenda that I'm not aware of," Hoover said. "I'm not going to speculate about it in the press."

A former worker at the company speculated that Kimberly-Clark did not want to alter the permit for Tenaska because there was no guarantee the project would be approved. Had the project fallen through, the company would no longer have an air quality permit and its boilers would be dismantled.

Although only 5 percent of the power generated will be steam, Tenaska must find a buyer for that product before going on-line.

Hoover thanked the residents of Lee who were for the project, saying the support in many quarters was "tremendous. Many citizens donated their time and tal-

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From school to country inn

Inspiration suddenly hits developer

Eagle 5-25-90 Pg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Exactly a year ago, Joseph M. Toole packed the 104-year-old former St. Mary's School onto a flatbed truck and hauled it a couple of blocks down the street to its new locale on Main Street. It was a magnificent operation, saved a historical building and got Toole's picture in a lot of papers.

There was only one problem. He had no idea what he was going to do with the darn thing.

"I had bought the school with the idea of turning it into office space," he said yesterday. "That seemed to me to be the logical use for it. But when I began putting feelers out into the community for tenants, I realized that the market just wasn't there for offices."

A bargain

The investment at that point was not major. Toole, a lifelong resident of Lee — he did not attend St. Mary's, although his grandfather was a member of the first class — had bought the former school in 1989 for $1.

His purchase saved the structure from being demolished. The Springfield Catholic Diocese had planned to raze the building because renovations were too costly. The nuns of St. Mary's had moved to a newer building in 1957. The old school was being used for tag sales and, briefly, as the town kindergarten.

Equal parts businessman and romantic, Toole admitted that the main reason he bought the building in the first place had little to do with any potential financial killing.

"I just couldn't bear to see it come down," he said. "There's a lot of history in the building for so many people in town."

Fortunately, while he was casting around for another use for the former parochial school, Toole was also in the process of acquiring the former Sons of Italy Lodge, also on Main Street.

"I was standing inside the Sons of Italy building, thinking I could turn it into a bed and breakfast," he said, "and I looked down the street and saw St. Mary's. I realized I had my bed and breakfast right there."

In the end, he decided not to purchase the Sons of Italy building, which remains vacant.

Toole said he will call the bed and breakfast the Chambery Inn, recognizing the home area in France of the nuns who

TOOLE, continued on B4

Derek Gentile / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Joseph M. Toole poses in front of the transformed school.

From school to country inn

■ TOOLE, from B1

Eagle 5-28-90

founded the school.

He says he will spend about a half-million dollars renovating the school building, retaining as much of the original architecture as possible. This includes the tin ceilings, wainscoting on the walls and even the blackboards and a water fountain on the second floor.

The six original classrooms on the second floor will be retained and converted into luxury suites. The first floor will have three smaller rooms and a foyer. The basement will contain a dining area, a kitchen and a manager's quarters.

The suites, when done, will be the showcase of the inn, Toole said. Done in a French country motif, they will contain canopied king- or queen-sized beds, fireplaces, and Jacuzzis in the bathrooms. Toole, who is aware that he cannot count on the summer tourist trade to carry the inn, envisioned the suites as quarters for traveling businessmen and women during the winter months.

"I see these rooms as a place where a businessman can come and relax and do a little work at night," he said.

Toole said he expects to complete the renovations by July. The grounds will also be landscaped, and a parking area will be provided south of the building.

He and his wife, Lynn, will run the operation during the day. The building is located next door to Toole's insurance office. Toole plans to hire a manager to oversee the night operation.

"It's equal parts insanity and hard work," he said, "but I think we can make it work."

Photos by Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Dutch Colonial being built by Southern Berkshire students nears completion on Fairview Street in Lee. Dana Pyenson carries a sawhorse while other students work on chimney.

Eagle 5-29-90 Pg. B1

Doing their homework

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The way John Reilley sees it, he must be the only teacher in the county whose students are graded on the work they do ON the classroom.

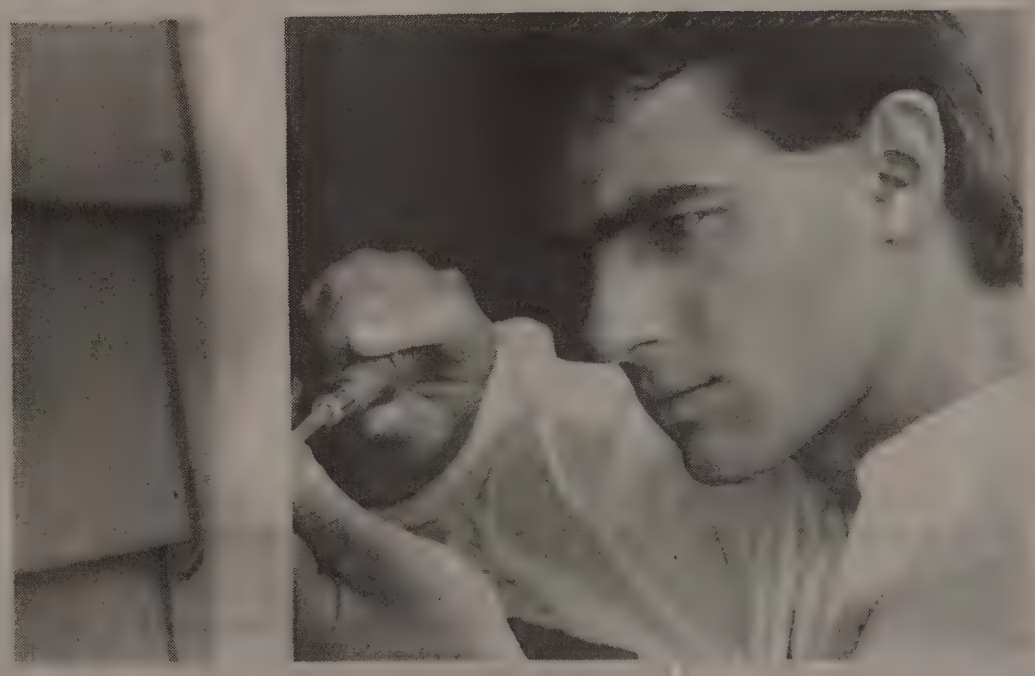
"I tell them that for the first time in their careers, they're going to build their own classroom," he said. "It's their house and if it's a good house, it's because they made it good."

Reilley is the teacher of the Lee House Building Program, a yearlong class in which students from the four South Berkshire school districts come together and construct a whole house from scratch every year.

The program is 13 years old, and many of the graduates of the first class are now contractors in the county. The program is so popular that there is a waiting list of between four and five students per semester.

That is not surprising, said Reilley, who has been overseeing the program for five

HOUSE, continued on B5



Jeff Eisenberg, a senior, installs lock on a sliding door.

Eagle 5-29-90

Building house — and character

■ HOUSE, from B1

years. With most classes, the most reward a student can expect is an "A" on his or her report card. In Reilley's class, a student gets to drive by the fruit of his efforts for years to come.

"It's a tangible reward," he said, "and it's helped elevate vocational education here. We're no longer the place they send the bad kids. We get a good mix of vocational students and college preparatory students. In most cases, the students are picking up a hammer for the first time in their lives."

He added that prospective students see graduates of the class working in the outside world as carpenters or builders.

For the past four years, the program has been sponsored by the Lee Kiwanis Club. The club purchases the property, provides the materials and turns the kids loose.

"They have been just tremendously supportive," said Reilley of Kiwanis. "At the end of the year, the club provides $200 worth of tools to every student." If a student plans to pursue carpentry or a related field at a postgraduate institution, they provide the additional tools necessary, he said.

In return, Kiwanis gets the finished product, which the club sells to raise money for its various nonprofit activities. This year's house, a Dutch Colonial, will sell for between $150,000 and $170,000.

Reilley said he and the students go over a book of blueprints before the beginning of each year to determine what kind of house they will construct. The houses average about 2,000 square feet.

"We try to pick a house that offers something different every year so that a student taking the class two or three years will be exposed to different types of buildings," he said.

Calms the clowns

Reilley said students generally take the course in their junior year and then again in their senior year, which is allowed. He keeps the class size down to 14 in the morning session and 14 in the afternoon. Each session is a half day, or about two hours.

He admitted that because the class is a popular one, it gets its share of cut-ups. But ironically, Reilley commented that he rarely has discipline problems.

"Sooner or later, we get someone who wants to be a clown," he said. "But the peer group structure is set up so that there isn't a lot of room for clowns. This is serious work for the majority. So the guy that wants to be a clown has to make a decision pretty quickly. He can be a clown and be apart from the group or he can join the peer group. It works very well."

But for some students, in addition to building houses, Reilley said, the program also builds character.

"We get a few of them every year," he said. "Kids who have kind of been in the shadows of the school. And then he gets involved here and he sees what he can achieve. It turns him around and he becomes interested in the work and the school. It's always amazing to watch."

Jennifer White

Michael Graham

Eagle 5-30-90 Pg. B5

Lee High announces graduation speakers

LEE — Jennifer White and Michael Graham have been named graduation speakers for the Lee High School class of 1990, Principal Richard T. Salinetti has announced.

White, the daughter of Michael and Christine Kalinowski of Mountain View Terrace, is vice president of the senior class and a member of the Student and Student Advisory councils.

She has been an honor student in all four years of her high school career and is a member of the National Honor Society. She has received the National Merit Achievement Award in science, the Daughters of the American Revolution Award in history and the Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence. She also was nominated to become a Congressional Scholar.

White is a member of the school's mathematics team, the Mathematics and Foreign Language clubs, the peer education program, the advanced leadership program, the school's social committee and the drill team. She also has served as a volunteer coach for Special Olympics.

Graham, the son of Scott and Dale Graham of Maple Street, is president of the senior class and president of the National Honor Society.

He has been a recipient of the Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence, the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medal for Academic Excellence in mathematics and science, the International Foreign Language Award and the National Merit Award in science.

He was a nominee for the Bates Book Award, was honored by the Lee School Committee for his service as its student representative, and was nominated for the Chancellor's Award for Academic Excellence.

Graham has been a member of the varsity tennis team, the peer education program, the Mathematics Club, the Foreign Language Club and the social committee. He has participated in the American Scholastic Mathematics Association, the National Mathematics League, the National Math League and the New England Math League.

He has served as a volunteer soccer coach in the Lee Community Soccer League.

Kimberly-Clark plan dead but Tenaska not quitting

Eagle 5-31-90 Pg. B4

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The attorney for the Massachusetts Energy Facilities Siting Council said yesterday that the Omaha, Neb., company that is proposing a co-generation facility on Columbia Street has withdrawn its application and his council has canceled plans to review the project.

Steven Klionsky said he was notified by telephone by an attorney representing Tenaska Inc., that the company was withdrawing its application for consideration by the council. Tenaska had planned a 120 megawatt cogeneration facility on the Kimberly-Clark Corp.'s Columbia Mill site.

Klionsky's statement essentially confirms statements made by Tenaska plant manager Gary Hoover last week, when Kimberly-Clark announced it would terminate a contract with Tenaska to purchase steam from them. Hoover admitted Friday that siting the plant at Kimberly-Clark's Columbia Street mill would probably no longer be feasible.

But Hoover also said he does not plan to abandon the project.

"This company will never give up," he said, adding that Tenaska was already pursuing other potential sites, as well as the possibility of planning a facility that would be under 100 megawatts. Such a plant would not fall under the purview of the siting council.

Instead, it would be reviewed by the Department of Environmental Protection.

When told of the news last night, members of the Concerned Citizens of Lee burst into spontaneous applause — and moments later cautioned that Tenaska would not give up easily.

"I don't think this is the last we've seen of Tenaska," said member David Olken.

"This is not a done deal," agreed Michael McDermott. "They could come back with a new plan six months from now. Kimberly-Clark still needs steam."

This paralleled a statement by Klionsky, who said Tenaska "can return to the council at any time with a new plan."

Ultimately, members of the CCL voted to meet next week and discuss possible new projects, as well as continuing to monitor the progress of the town's second cogeneration facility, proposed by the Mead Corp. south of town on Route 102.

Scott Dinan, spokesman for the group, said he was "not interested in getting into a confrontation with Mead about this. But we would like some information. I think we ought to find out about it."

McDermott agreed, adding that "there are safety issues, there are water-quality issues and there are environmental issues that should be addressed. We don't have to go tooth and nail but we can certainly contact them and ask a few questions."

The group agreed to cancel a walk-a-thon and dance slated for next month and advertised as avenues for raising money to battle the Tenaska project. But several members indicated they have no plans to disband altogether.

"There's so much talent and energy here," said Michael Fields. "We're too valuable to disband. I think we should remain as a watchdog group."

"I think," Dinan said, "we've proved that ordinary people can make a difference."

Dinan thanked the group for its work, adding "I've never felt so close to people in this town as I do right now."

No supermarket on Dan Fox Drive

6-4-90 Eagle

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

I can't believe anyone is serious about putting another store on Dan Fox Drive — the Lenox Road is too congested now.

Why destroy a beautiful piece of land when the old Kay-Bee Toy warehouse in Lee would be an ideal spot for a store? Everyone knows South County could use another grocery.

ANN ASTBURY

Lee Pg. A4

Kimberly-Clark Cans Co-Generation Scheme

Courier 5-31-90 Pg. 1

LEE — Kimberly-Clark announced last week that the company is dropping plans to permit construction of a natural gas co-generation facility at its Columbia Mill here.

The developer was Lee Mass Cogeneration, an offshoot of Tenaska.

The project has come in for considerable criticism from local residents on a variety of counts, including noise and traffic and the need for a new, larger gas pipeline.

In a co-generation facility, steam would generate electricity then be directed to a manufacturing facility for a secondary use.

Mass. Co-Generation will likely look for an alternate site in South Berkshire.

It has been speculated, according to *The Berkshire Eagle*, that Kimberly-Clark withdrew because the project required a re-examination of its own air quality permit, with no guarantee that the company could continue to operate its present equipment.

3 towns consider food handling rules

6-2-90 Eagle Pg. C1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — In an attempt to establish basic standards of sanitation, hygiene and food handling, the Tri-Town Health Department, in conjunction with the Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge Boards of Health, will host an informational meeting to consider mandatory training or certification for restaurants.

The meeting will be June 21 at 3 p.m. at the Lee Senior Center.

Assistant Health Agent Maxwell Bookless said he hopes the meeting will provide a forum for information that will enable the Tri-Town Board of Health to set standards.

Optional at first

The standards initially would be optional, Bookless said, but he added that many cities and towns across the country are beginning to adopt mandatory regulations.

"I think sooner or later, we'll have to mandate these rules," he said.

Bookless said that although there is not a major problem with hygiene and sanitation in the three towns, the department wants to be able to point to standards when trying to enforce better conditions.

"There are people getting into the food service business all the time," he said. "Some of them know what they're doing, some don't. Right now, there is not a big problem. But we [illegible] into small cases all the time."

Backed by restaurants

Bookless said he has received encouragement from local restaurants he has contacted.

"I would have no objection to something like that," said William Orford, owner of the Morgan House in Lee. "We have a heck of a responsibility to the public here. I think we should have something in writing to point to."

Bookless said the regulations would pertain to all types of food service establishments.

Patrick Wilson, manager of the Burger King in Lee, said he would welcome such regulation.

"We are generally much tougher on ourselves than local boards of health anyway, when it comes to clean facilities, storing and removing garbage and hygiene," he said.

H6

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Real underpinnings

Eagle 6-6-90 Pg. B1

Students in Lee Central School's 3rd grade pose with footstools literally equipped with legs — and feet and shoes as well — made in a project run by teacher Aniela St. Peter. Shown, from left, are Heather Miller, Sloan Witbeck, Kristy Larrow, Jamie Bynack and Mike Isenhart.

Lee man ordered to remove deck

Pg. B6

6-5-90

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Acting on a recommendation from Building Inspector Robert W. Lester, the Selectman last night told the owner of a Lois Street home that he would have to remove a deck attached to his house or face a criminal complaint.

Lester told the board that John Boyer did not have a building permit for the deck, nor was a plan for the structure approved by the Planning Board.

"We have too much of this kind of thing happening," Lester said. "Something gets built and then the permit is applied for. We have to put a stop to it."

Requires plan board OK

Boyer, who put up the deck a few weeks ago, told the Selectmen he made several attempts to contact Lester to obtain a building permit but was unsuccessful. He did not dispute that the deck was an illegal structure. Boyer commented that he did manage to contact Assistant Building Inspector Gordon Bailey. Bailey, however, has no authority to grant building permits.

Lester added that even if Bailey did have such power, the plan would still have had to be reviewed by the Planning Board. Under town bylaws, a deck attached to a house is classified as an auxiliary structure, which requires approval from the Planning Board.

Selectmen Chairman Joseph DuPont sided with Lester, telling Boyer that the town could not condone issuing permits after structures were built. Boyer has 30 days to remove the deck. Lester said he would then be able to apply for a building permit to build one legally.

The Selectmen announced last night that their meetings would begin at 7 on Monday nights instead of 7:30.

In another matter, two of the three board members told Richard E. Gore Sr., representing NYNEX Communications Systems, that they would have no problem allowing a communications tower atop the water tower on Fairview Street.

Two opposed

DuPont and Diane P. Roosa said they would oppose the work, but told Gore that the town did not yet own the water tower. DuPont said negotiations for the structure were expected to be complete by July 1. Gore said he would convey that news to NYNEX.

Gore said NYNEX also had a tentative agreement to use the towers on the Massachusetts Turnpike if the town could not agree on terms. This relocation from the water tower would mean the loss of about $15,000 in tax and rental payments to the town, however, Gore said.

In other business, the Selectmen:

► Appointed Roosa the Lee delegate to the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority.

► Voted to reject all the bids for the new town fire truck. Fire Chief Ronald Driscoll told the board the Fire Department wanted to rewrite the specifications because all the bids came in too high. The town will rebid the vehicle in a few weeks, he said.

► Approved an easment to enable St. Mary's Church to build a set of cement steps onto Academy Street.

► Were officially notified by the state Energy Siting Council that Tenaska Inc. of Omaha, Neb., has withdrawn its application for a site to construct a co-generation plant on Columbia Street.

O'Connell plans mini-mall in Lee

Eagle 6/6/90 Pg. C1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — O'Connell Oil Associates of Pittsfield, owner of 23 Convenience Plus stores in Western Massachusetts, is planning a mini-mall next to its Lee store.

President William O'Connell said the plans were very preliminary, explaining that he presented them to the Selectmen and Planning Board to gauge the town's reaction to his plan.

"We just want to see how this will go over," he said. "We haven't made any concrete plans."

Up to six units

The preliminary plan calls for construction of up to six commercial spaces adjacent to the store on Main Street. They would range from 1,600 to 1,800 square feet. The mini-mall would be the vertical arm of an L-shaped configuration facing east on the lot, with the Convenience Plus store as the horizontal arm.

O'Connell said that the plans presented to the board were only an outline, however. If tenants need more space, he would be willing to build the spaces to suit them. He said that because of the preliminary nature of the plan, he had no commitments from tenants, although companies have expressed interest. There is no time schedule for the project, he said.

O'Connell said parking would remain on the north and east part of the lot. The banking machine on the northeast corner of the lot would be moved into one of the new spaces.

Traffic problems

In an attempt to mitigate traffic problems, one of the three exits onto Main Street would probably be eliminated. A third exit onto a driveway facing Center Street would be added, according to the plans.

O'Connell Oil owns the Convenience Plus chain, which has convenience stores as far east as Palmer. There are several stores in the Springfield area and in other parts of Hampden County. There are seven stores in Berkshire County: four in Pittsfield, one in Stockbridge, one in Lanesboro and one in Lee.

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

The Convenience Plus store in Lee is the site of a proposed commercial expansion by O'Connell Oil Associates.

Telephone service improved

Eagle 6-10-90 Pg. B1

By Rose Foley
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — As of about 2 a.m. yesterday, modern telephone service arrived in Lee and Lenox.

The custom-calling services that come with the technology probably won't be available until the middle of the week, said David I. Wood, public relations manager for New England Telephone.

The services include call waiting, call forwarding, speed calling, three-way calling and touch-tone service.

The change from an electromechanical switching system to a centralized computer switching center was completed through a synchronized cutting of thousands of phone lines and letting the new computer take over, said Wood. That process took about 30 seconds.

The conversion in Lee and Lenox, which was a year in the making, cost about $2 million, said Wood.

Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, who has championed a six-year battle for a better phone system in Berkshire County, said the services should have been here long ago.

He said people in other parts of the state take custom calling services for granted.

"This is just part of what we've been asking for for years," Hodgkins said. "And we're paying for it. Our rates are comparable to other parts of the state. The rates are not dramatically less despite the fact that they have more." "They" includes metropolitan Boston.

Basic charge hike

The state Department of Public Utilities is due to make a decision June 29 on the phone company's proposal to increase the basic monthly charge about $3 for residents and $6 for businesses.

The proposal also calls for charging one cent for any long-distance phone call in the 413 area code, plus 5½ cents per minute, said Wood. A one-minute call from Lee to Springfield, which now costs 71 cents, would be reduced to 6½ cents.

Hodgkins, through a petition filed in 1984, seeks the elimination of toll calls in Berkshire County so that people can call from one town to the next without having to pay for it, better service and updated equipment.

He said it is cheaper for him to call Hot Springs, Ark., than to make some calls within Berkshire County.

A brief he filed last month against NET's proposal states that Berkshire County is a group of integrated communities "whose well-being is currently

PHONE, continued on B7

With roses, 97 graduate from Lee

Eagle 6-10-90 Pg. B1

By Holly A. Taylor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LENOX — Friendships forged in grade school, on the playing fields, through drama productions and in the classroom took center stage as the class of 1990 graduated from Lee High School during a ceremony at Tanglewood yesterday.

"This class is as close knit as any class has ever been," said Class President Michael Graham, as he traced their growth from freshmen to seniors.

"By our senior year, all the cliques were virtually dissolved, and today we stand together as one."

Many memories

Graham said saying goodbye would be difficult, but the class has many memories to share. As a soft drizzle fell outside the Shed, the students sat on stage, the boys in black caps and gowns and the girls in white gowns, clutching single-stem red roses.

Class vice president Jennifer White recalled her failure as a softball player, only to learn that the classroom was where she could shine.

Students came together as friends, she said, in many ways — through music, drama, athletics, peer counseling and the school's house-building program.

"Now the time has come to use our talents on a larger scale, although talent alone will not always be enough," said White, closing with the class motto, "Success is never final and failure never fatal; it's courage that counts."

Class adviser and teacher Sally L. Maish noted that the class dedicated its yearbook to friendship, and she told the story of "The Little Prince," who considered his friendship with a rose unique until he went exploring and found a garden of roses.

"He understood the time spent on the rose made the friendship important," said Maish. "I know some of you have protected and cared for each other since kindergarten. I have seen you laugh. I have seen you cry. I have seen you share."

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staf

Hope Crawford, Lee class of 1990, is ready for her graduation procession, which took place yesterday at Tanglewood.

Maish told the graduates to enjoy life, but added, "Riches don't come from fame and fortune, but from family, faith and friends. May you all be little princes and roses."

A program insert said the commencement was dedicated to the memory of Albert A. and Mary J. Vinatier, who died recently from injuries suffered in a fire. Albert Vinatier taught Frenc and skiing at Lee High School from 196 until his retirement in 1987.

Lee High School Principal Richard T Salinetti announced a long list of schol arships, and Salinetti, Maish, class ad viser Bruce G. Lorance and School Su perintendent Henry T. Zukowski pre sented diplomas to the 97 graduates.

Phone service modernized

Eagle 6-10-90

■ PHONE, from B1

impaired by the imposition of toll charges throughout the county."

The brief also states that although NET is a monopoly, its advertising budget grew from $10.5 million in 1985 to $26.4 million last year.

"You know their advertising that says that 'We're the one for you New England'? Well, they're the only one," said Hodgkins.

He said NET is responding to pressure from the decision due later this month. Wood disputes that.

"We had made the decision to improve phone service in the Berkshires long before Rep. Hodgkins started shouting at us to do it," he said.

Wood said the new pricing structure would amount to a $16 million loss in revenues.

Switching centers in Berkshire County are scheduled to be computerized by the end of 1992. Wood said the schedule was determined based on need. Systems in the eastern part of the state were at near-capacity, so it made sense to replace them first.

Wood said that a 15-week phone strike pushed work schedules back. He said meetings with Hodgkins and Sen. Peter C. Webber, R-Pittsfield, had an impact on not further postponing the installation of custom calling services.

He added that the NET proposal covering anywhere in the 413 area code is better than the countywide non-toll calling requested by Hodgkins.

Kaiden elected head of chamber in Lee

Eagle 6-12-90 Pg. C1

LEE — The Lee Chamber of Commerce has elected Bruce M. Kaiden as president, succeeding Mary K. Bradbury.

Kaiden, a senior account executive and copywriter at WUPE/WUHN radio in Pittsfield, has been involved in chamber activities since 1985. He coordinated entertainment at the Lee Celebration in 1987 and was chairman of the 10th-anniversary Lee Celebration in 1988.

He said he believes there is a need to improve the ties between the business community and the schools and to provide evening activity for young people.

Kaiden has served as chairman of the chamber's Positive-Lee Beautiful Committee. The group, which has raised more than $1,500 in corporate contributions, has asked landlords to repair and improve commercial buildings and has purchased four town benches and 24 flower tubs.

The flower tubs were placed along Main Street and planted by volunteers. Chamber vice president Sandra LeProvost led the "adopt-a-tub" program.

"So many people worked on this effort," said Kaiden, "it seemed to develop its own momentum."

Kaiden, who moved to the area from New York City in 1982, is program director for the Tri-Town Rotary.

He has a master's degree in English and a teaching certificate in secondary education from the State University of New York at Buffalo. He lives with his wife, Bonnie, and their daughter on Fairview Street.

Lee schools to send $40,000 back to town

Eagle 6-14-90 Pg. B3

LEE — Approximately $40,000 in unspent money will be returned by the Lee School Committee into the town coffers at the end of this fiscal year.

Lee Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski said a year-end examination of the substitute teacher salaries account and the special-needs account showed surpluses totaling $40,000. The committee, he said, voted last week to return that money to the town. Otherwise, the money could be encumbered for the next fiscal year in the same accounts.

Zukowski said the committee was glad to hand over the money to the town because of the support the district received at last month's annual town meeting.

Delegates supportive

"The representatives were very supportive of our efforts, and I believe that the School Committee and I owe it to them and to the town to return whatever surplus we have."

Zukowski said he was grateful that the town representatives supported the School Committee's recommendation for a higher budget than originally proposed by the town officials.

Last May, the town ordered all departments, including the Lee School District, to level-fund in anticipation of little or no state aid. The district came up with what it believed was a reasonable compromise in a budget increase of 2.7 percent. At the annual town meeting, the representatives unanimously approved the higher figure.

Scholarships Awarded At Lee High

LEE — The following awards and scholarships have been awarded to graduating seniors at Lee High School:

Lee Lime scholarships, Jennifer White, Michael Graham and Marcy Naventi.

Mary Voght Memorial, Jennifer White, Michael Graham, Marcie Skowron, Carolyn Wilson, Lea Hunsicker, Andrea Aldrich, Gregg Brighenti, Anita Deeg, Tracy Hart and Marcy Naventi.

Lee Kiwanis Club, Jennifer White, Denise Sires and Jeffrey Eisenberg.

Stedman-Myers Memorial Fund, Anita Deeg, Scott Briggs and Jennifer Davis.

Otis PTO, Anthony Clark, Joetta Yutkins, Heather Rocke.

Retzel Memorial athletic, Lea Hunsicker.

Griffin Memorial athletic, Jeffrey Eisenberg.

Griffin-Retzel Citizenship, Andrea Aldrich.

Tri-Town Rotary in memory of Maurice Boulanger, Jennifer Whitet.

G. Marconi Lodge 1620, Order of Sons of Italy, Gregg Brighenti.

Lee Education Association in memory of Arthur Welcome, Gregg Brighenti, Doreen Humason and Marcy Naventi.

Lee Band Parents, Doreen Humason, Brent Brunell, Jason Kastrinakis, Paul Kastrinakis and Sandra Perachi.

Student Council, Paul Kastrinakis, Marcy Naventi, Marcie Skowron, Gregg Brighenti, Michael Consolai, Michael Graham and Jennifer White.

Otis Kiwanis Club, Carolyn Wilson and Shannon Stearns.

Eastover, Stephen Tisdale.

Doreen Trufant, Class of 1937, Edward Forfa.

Mead Paper, John Cahalen.

Hop Brook Community Club of Tyringham, Jennifer Davis.

Scholarship in honor of Dr. Charles Stratton, Christine Smith.

South Lee Civic Association, Scott Briggs and Lori Clark.

Maurice Boulanger scholarship, Andrea Aldrich.

Bruce and John Stevenson Memorial, Gregg Brighenti.

Quiz Team, Jonathan Vreeland.

Decathlon, Jonathan Vreeland.

Dr. John T. Cinella memorial, Marcie Skowron, Marcy Naventi and Stacey Lynch.

Comalli Electric in memory of James Mougin, Laura Fleming.

Lee Lions Club, Rachel Cohen.

Michael Whalen Memorial, Paul LePrevost.

Tyringham Fire Department, Jennifer Davis.

Ladies Auxiliary, Tyringham Fire Department, Jennifer Davis.

VFW Post 893, Christopher Sparks.

VFW Post 893 Auxiliary, Lori Clark.

First National Bank of the Berkshires, Lea Hunsicker.

Scholarship in memory of Joseph T. Loring Jr., Jeffrey Eisenberg.

Morning Star Chapter 217, Order of Eastern Star, Stacey Lynch.

Gridiron Club, Keith Thomson.

Abner Rice scholarship, Christine Smith.

E.C.H. Will-Clark Aiken Local 264 UEW, Jason Kastrinakis.

Scholarship in memory of Susan E. Nerrie, Jennifer Angers.

Kelly Coty memorial, Elizabeth Sour.

Eugenio Bonafin memorial, Class of 1936, Todd Roosa.

Churchward Davis scholarship, Shannon McDonald.

Joseph Davis memorial, Thomas Viner.

Scholarship in memory of Harry Wheeler, Jennifer Collins.

East Lee Civic Association in memory of Olive Cordonier and Edward Gage, Todd

Cont Below

School

Courier 6-14-90 6-14-90 Pg. A8

Roosa.

Lee Youth Association, Celeste Biron.

Lee Pee Wee Football, Scott Briggs and David Scarpa

Ardella Donnell Memorial, Class of 1933, Marcie Skowron.

Albert Vinatier French scholarship, Andrea Aldrich and Tracy Hart.

Lee Senior Citizens Club, Kristin Allen.

Lee Town Players in memory of Cora

Phones Modernized

Courier 6-7-90

LEE — New England Telephone, according to a news release, has accelerated a major network modernization project. New digital call-switching systems in Lee and Lenox will go into effect June 2. Pg. 15

White, Graham Speak At Lee Commencement

Courier 6-14-90 Pg. A7

LEE — Jennifer White and Michael Graham were speakers for Lee High School's graduation ceremony held last weekend at Tanglewood.

Miss White is the daughter of Michael and Christine Kalinowski of Lee. A member of the National Honor Society, she has been an honor student all four years in high school. She has received the National Merit Achievement Award in Science, the DAR award in history, the Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence and was nominated to become a Congressional Scholar and attend the National Young Leaders Conference. She was nominated for the Bates book award during her junior year and was recognized and honored in "Who's Who Among American High School Students."

She is a member of the math team, the math club, the foreign language club, Peer Education, Advanced Leadership, the social committee, student council, student advisory council, the drill team and is volunteer coach for Special Olympics.

She is vice-president of the senior class. She plans to attend the University of Richmond and major in biology.

Mr. Graham, the son of Scott and Dale Graham of Lee, is president of the National Honor Society chapter and of the senior class.

He has received the Superintendent's Award for Academic Excellence, the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute medal for academic excellence in mathematics and science, the international foreign language award, the National Merit in Science Award, nominee for the Bates book award, nominee for the Chancellor's Award for Academic Excellence and recipient of a plaque for his dedicated service as student representative to the school board.

He has been featured in "Who's Who Among American High School Students," and has served

See Pg. A8

Young 'philanthropists' aid students, parents

Pg. B2

Eagle 6·16·90

By Linda Burchard
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Lee High School Youth in Philanthropy group is responsible for raising $2,500 for the Family Center of the Berkshires to operate a parent education and support group program in Lee.

The program is for students in grades 6-8 and their parents and is scheduled to begin in the fall.

The students raised $1,000 by staging two dances and a volleyball tournament and washing grocery carts for a supermarket. Mead Specialty Paper matched the students' efforts with a $500 contribution. The Berkshire-Taconic Foundation, the original sponsor of the program, contributed $1,000.

Sally K. Eagle, director of the foundation, said the project was chosen by the 16-member Youth in Philanthropy group. The foundation had organized that group and a similar one at Housatonic Valley High School in Falls Village, Conn., in order to involve students in both fund raising and community service, Eagle said.

The non-profit foundation, based in Lakeville, Conn., manages just over $2 million in charitable trusts. About 80 percent of those are for a purpose designated by the donor; the remainder, for a project chosen by the foundation: Among its projects is a recycling effort in Great Barrington.

The foundation concentrates on the region of Berkshire County, northwestern Connecticut, and adjoining communities in New York State.

Kaiden Heads Lee Chamber

Pg. 9 Courier 6-7-90

LEE — Bruce M. Kaiden has been elected president of the Lee Chamber of Commerce, succeeding Mary K. Bradbury. Mr. Kaiden has been involved in chamber activities since 1985, having worked on Lee Celebration festivities.

Mr. Kaiden said there is a continued need for the chamber to take a participatory role in town issues and to be a source of information and education for its membership and the town at large.

Mr. Kaiden is senior account executive and broadcast copywriter for WUPE-WUHN in Pittsfield. He and his wife Bonnie and their daughter Lindy live on Fairview Street.

The chamber recently completed the first phase of its "Positive-Lee Beautiful" project, primarily the "Adopt-A-Tub" program. There was a letter writing and advertising campaign directed at merchants and landlords seeking assistance in facade improvement and repairs, and also to industry for corporate contributions. To date, the effort has raised more than $1,500.

State Police Offer Resources

Courier 6.14.90 By Bernard Drew Pg. 1

LEE — For South Berkshire towns without a full-time police force, the State Police are a sensible alternative.

For communities with established departments, they are a backup and underutilized resource.

So suggests Sgt. Peter Risatti, 23-year veteran of the force who has charge of the barracks here.

Sgt. Risatti, who gave high marks to the professionalism of a number of South Berkshire police departments, said that liability concerns, along with diminished budgets, would suggest a lessening of the mutual aid system and an increased reliance on State Police resources.

The State Police have two men on patrol at all times, and a third officer at the desk in Lee, he said. The officers are involved in routine patrols, radar monitoring and criminal and drug investigations. All is dropped, however, when an emergency call comes in.

"Our primary responsibility is to answer calls within the towns without full-time police departments, for example if there's a break-and-enter in Becket," said the sergeant.

He said the advent of ambulances and First Responders in all communities has made it easier for the State Police to cover the wide geographic area they do.

"The burden of immediate attention has shifted," he said. "We don't transport injured people any more, only in extreme conditions."

He gave a lengthy list of State Police resources: K-9 for searches or drug-related investigations; helicopter and Scuba crew; accident reconstructionists; National Crime Information Center access; photography and fingerprint professionals; STOP team for tactical situations; hostage negotiators; ballistics, breathalizer and chemical laboratory experts; Crime Prevention and Control in association with the District Attorney's office in Pittsfield.

Historically, said Sgt. Risatti, local departments were started in a

Please turn to Page 12

State Police Continued from Page 1

number of towns because certain functions could only be handled that way, whether it was nighttime security or traffic control. He said that State Police routine at one time meant officers would respond on a first-come basis, rather than by priority.

A variety of factors resulted in the growth of local departments.

"The local departments are good," said Sgt. Risatti. "They know the people in town. We can't function without that — you have to have personal contact. If a trooper lives in town, that's fine, otherwise we have to rely on a local constable or chief as liaison."

He said it doesn't make sense for Tyringham, where he lives, for example to have its own police force, given the size of the town. But to increase State Police monitoring of speeders, townspeople purchased a radar unit which the troopers use only in that town.

Alford, as another example, has a police chief (the chairman of the Board of Selectman) who, when a call comes in, whether for an accident or a suicide, immediately calls in the State Police before going to the scene. The State Police conduct any investigations.

Sgt. Risatti said that all police agencies are struggling to maintain budgets. His troopers are driving miles-weary cruisers until funds come through for new ones. Other equipment is wearing out. Great Barrington, as an example of South County towns, has struggled year by year to bring its force up to a full complement. That is now in jeopardy, depending on the outcome of Proposition 2.5 override vote. Sheffield and West Stockbridge, likewise, face override votes to fund basic police budgets.

Sgt. Risatti suggested that a number of South Berkshire departments may be favoring mutual aid agreements over backup use of the State Police. *(See related story, this page.)*

He did not suggest that the State Police would be a practical replacement for local department manpower.

He said the Massachusetts State Police come with a $1 million indemnification. In these litigious times, he said, any police officer from any town involved in an accident call, arrest or other police activity is liable to a lawsuit in the event of third-party injury or death.

He gave as an example an instance a number of years back when a Stockbridge police cruiser transported a West Stockbridge captive to Lee for lockup. The arrestee died in the cruiser's back seat of suffocation caused by choking on his own vomit. The family sued.

He gave another example of a recent call from Sheffield police for a K-9 to assist in searching for an escapee. The barracks was unable to provide one sooner than an hour. A dog was provided by the Connecticut State Police sooner.

But as soon as that officer and dog crossed the state line, as a courtesy, he lost his indemnification and police authority. If the dog had bitten someone, the local department would have taken on considerable liability.

He said small towns which pay $600 a year for use of the Great Barrington lockup and communications are getting a bargain, given the liability that goes along with lockups and mandated suicide-prevention responsibilities.

"Police officers are probably in a greater degree of liability than doctors," said Sgt. Risatti. "For doctors, you have to get another doctor to testify. For police, you can get any of 50,000 critics to testify."

In ticking off a list of South County departments, Sgt. Risatti said townspeople "are very lucky the organizations are run by the people they are."

But he said the departments may have taken on more than is necessary. It makes no sense, for example, for a department to send an officer to accident reconstruction school when the State Police have an accident reconstructionist available.

"There are State Police resources that many may not know of," said Sgt. Risatti. "The towns are all entitled to them, we all pay state taxes."

Courier 6-16-90 Pg. B6 Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Rising to the occasion

Getting a kick out of her tennis lesson, 6-year-old Heather Currie of Lee puts her all into a drill at Berkshire West Athletic Club in Pittsfield.

1 50

Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Dark clouds whirled low over Becket Federated Church on Route 8 in Becket yesterday. Eagle 6·20·90 Pg. A1

Funnel clouds swirl over Berkshires

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — At least two funnel clouds swept through parts of Lee and Tyringham yesterday afternoon, bringing with them sheets of rain, hail, high winds and sporadic thunderstorms.

The storm closed a stretch of the Massachusetts Turnpike in the Berkshires, dumped up to 2.5 inches of rain, knocked down tree limbs and utility wires and caused numerous power outages. No injuries were reported.

Funnel clouds are airborne tornadoes. According to Eagle meteorologist George J. Bulgarelli, they become tornadoes only if they touch down on the ground. Yesterday, although there were several sightings of funnel clouds, there was no evidence they touched down, Bulgarelli said.

But whether they touched down or not, the accompanying high winds and thunderstorms wreaked havoc throughout South Berkshire County and Pittsfield.

Power failures were sprinkled throughout the southern part of the county. A bolt of lightning struck a utility pole on Division Street in Great Barrington, knocking out power in several sections of that town for several hours.

Farther north, lightning struck a transmitter in Pittsfield, knocking WBEC-AM off the air for about two hours. Century Berkshire Cable also was off the air for several hours, according to several callers.

Another power failure in Lee was caused when tree limbs fell across power lines on Greylock Street. In Egremont, the storm knocked out power in town, but the special election was unaffected, as the town uses old-fashioned ballot boxes powered by hand cranks. Residents voted by candlelight.

STORM, continued on A8

Storm brings funnel clouds over Berkshires

■ STORM, from A1 Eagle

Sporadic failures were reported in Williamstown.

Hailstones, some as large as golf balls, were seen in parts of Pittsfield, Richmond, Great Barrington, Lee and Tyringham.

Heavy rains forced cancellation of opening day for the Pittsfield Cubs at Wahconah Park in Pittsfield. Team officials announced that a double-header will be played tonight, beginning at 6.

Hail, heavy rains and high winds closed a stretch of the Massachusetts Turnpike between exits 1 and 2 at about 4 p.m., according to state police. It was closed for about 45 minutes because police feared the low visibility would cause accidents.

The National Weather Service in Albany, N.Y., announced a tornado watch at 3:37 yesterday afternoon, according to meteorologist Larry Morley. Morley said the announcements were made after sightings of funnel clouds in Lee and Tyringham. The funnel clouds were heading east at about 20 mph. Another sighting a few minutes later placed one of the funnel clouds about 10 miles north of the center of Monterey near the Massachusetts Turnpike.

Funnel clouds also were reported in Poughkeepsie and Rhinebeck, N.Y., according to the National Weather Service.

The tornado watch was lifted at 4:45 and a severe thunderstorm watch was initiated from 4:45 to 5:45, Morley said. Where tornadoes and funnel clouds bring winds up to 100 mph, the winds brought by severe thunderstorms are up to 60 mph, Bulgarelli said.

Bulgarelli said the storm was the result of three fronts that passed through the county over the past 24 hours. The first front passed through the area yesterday, delivering a spate of hot, muggy weather. The second front was about 150 miles behind the first and came through yesterday afternoon, delivering violent storms. The third was 35-50 miles behind the second and delivered last night's residual rains.

He added that the county was lucky, in a way. Had the three fronts swept through the area as one front the storms would have been much more severe, he said.

The storm delivered up to 2.5 inches of rain in Great Barrington and 1.8 inches of rain in Pittsfield. A severe flood watch was in effect until 9 last night in Berkshire County.

Bulgarelli said the storm generated so-called "popcorn thunderstorms" throughout Berkshire County. Popcorn storms are ones that pop up quickly, dump sheets of rain over a relatively small parcel of land and subside within a few minutes. These storms cut visibility to a few feet in many places. The severe rains hit as far north as Lanesboro down to Sheffield, forcing drivers to pull over to the side of the road briefly.

Although Massachusetts is hit by an average of four tornadoes annually, only four have been recorded in the Berkshires. In 1879, a twister cut through Pittsfield. In 1973 and 1983, tornadoes struck the northern part of West Stockbridge, and in 1984, a tornado ripped through North Adams and Williamstown.

Lee High Group Raises $2,500 Courier 6·21·90

LEE — Everyone who cares about the quality of life in Lee owes a round of applause to the Lee High School Youth in Philanthropy students. Over the course of the school year, this group of 16 students has succeeded in raising $2,500 to be used for a project they expect will be a valuable opportunity for many families in the Lee community.

To help families learn to manage the many difficult conflicts that arise between parents and students, this group is contributing the $2,500 to the Family Center of the Berkshires to run a parent education and a parent support group program in Lee, that will begin in the fall.

These workshops will help train parents and students to cope with the frustration they experience in more constructive ways.

The parent support groups are designed to give parents an opportunity to get away from their children for awhile and share their parenting problems with other parents who understand exactly how and why they are feeling the way they do. Support groups help parents help each other figure out ways to change patterns of behavior they don't like.

Mead Specialty Paper matched the student efforts with a contribution of $500, and the Berkshire-Taconic Foundation, the original sponsor of the project, matched the student's fundraising with a contribution of $1,000. Price Chopper and many families and students also contributed to this cause.

Pg. 2

First Prize For Philbrick

LEE — Margaret Philbrick of Sheffield took first prize in oils for "Serenity" in the Pittsfield Art League's member show now at the library here. Gloria Malcolm Arnold of Lee took second for her oil, "Sheffield Flood Plain." Mary Lou Dobson of Lee won a prize for a colored pencil work.

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Firm must repair leaky Lee tower

Eagle 6-19-90 Pg. B4

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The town's Department of Public Works last night ordered Tighe & Bond, its engineering consultant, to come up with a way to repair the leaking water tower on Fairview Street.

Tighe & Bond engineer Phillip W. Sheridan told the group he estimated the redesign work would take about three months. Sheridan admitted that his company had erred by ordering the wrong pipe for the water tower, which caused a leak in the tower in November.

But DPW Chairman Joseph Castronova and most of the rest of the members said they were less interested in placing blame than in making sure the tower was fixed properly. Castronova added that he would like to see a guarantee from Tighe & Bond that the repair work would serve as well as the original design.

"We expect to have this tower for 50 years, if we take care of it," he said.

Castronova added he was particularly upset that the pipe was inspected several times by the contractor and Tighe & Bond and the fact that the wrong pipe was in was not noticed. Selectman William Bean went a step further, saying that voters narrowly approved an article on the town warrant several years ago allowing the town to buy the tower.

"We had to get a lot of people involved," Bean said. "Now these people know there's a problem. I'm out on a limb here and it feels pretty lonesome. I want to get what the town paid for and make sure this is the best thing for the town."

Sheridan insisted that, "The town will not get anything less than it paid for."

"They've already got a leaky tower," retorted Bean.

Freedom of speech?

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

I noted in this morning's paper [Eagle, June 12] that the court did not uphold the ban on flag burning. That is supposed to be "freedom of speech." What could be more stupid? According to that reasoning, so is abusing drugs in any way.

Those who lived through the period of "freedom of expression" about 20 years ago can remember what that did to us. This is the same.

Eagle 6-21-90
Lee G.R. STEWARD

Lee pushes for stoplights

Eagle 6-21-90 Pg. B1

By Daniel Pearl
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Right now motorists can take Route 20 from the Massachusetts Turnpike to the Lenox line without encountering a traffic light.

Lee officials, citing safety concerns, want to change that as soon as possible by putting traffic lights on each end of Main Street in the downtown area, but they may encounter resistance from a regional committee recently formed to advise the state Department of Public Works.

During a meeting yesterday of the Citizens Advisory Committee on the Routes 20 and 7 Corridor of Critical Concern, the chairman of the group, Thomas McLoughlin, said traffic lights would slow passenger trips between Central Berkshire communities and the Massachusetts Turnpike.

McLoughlin, a DPW official, said board members should go back to their communities and find out how the traffic light proposals discussed yesterday would affect them.

"We don't want to simply say, 'You have proven your case, and you want to move, so let's go as fast as we can through the design and installation,' and end up in domino fashion, three years from now, with even more sets of signals," McLoughlin said.

SAFETY, continued on B2

Lee officials seek stoplights

■ SAFETY, from B1

But William Bean, chairman of the Lee Selectmen, said the town has been trying to get traffic lights since 1970, and the Citizens Advisory Committee is not moving fast enough. "I'm concerned I might be old and gray in my 70s before we see anything done," he said.

One request shelved

Lee Selectmen have already taken the DPW's suggestion to shelve one traffic light request. They endorsed a proposal last month for a traffic light at Main and Park streets, and for a reshaped intersection — with possible traffic lights in the future — at Main and Center streets.

Currently, drivers can turn left without stopping to continue south on Route 20 at Park Street, and they can turn left without stopping to continue north on Route 20 at Center Street. Town officials say the intersections pose safety hazards and long waits for the rest of the drivers.

The state owns only part of the Park Street intersection and none of the Center Street intersection, but Ross Dindio, district highway engineer for the DPW, noted yesterday that the town is asking the state to fund the improvements. Also, DPW approval is needed for any traffic light on a state highway.

Michael Lewis, the DPW's district traffic engineer, said there have been fewer accidents at the two intersections than at other points on Route 20. He said a traffic light at Park Street "could limit potential accidents" but might create new hazards on Main Street when a line of cars formed as long as 750 feet during a red light.

Lewis said the safety of the triangular Center Street intersection can be improved without traffic lights. A sketch he presented yesterday called for removing the diagonal parking in front of Joe's Diner, widening the intersection with left turn lanes in all three directions and putting an island in the middle to guide motorists.

Joe Sorrentino, owner of the diner, said he owns about four feet of the street and will fight any attempt to take away his parking.

Laurie Forfa

Profitable 'mistakes'

Eagle 6-23-90 Pg. B1

LEE

Time was in baseball card collecting when the object of the wax pack search was to find, among those packs of 15 or so cards with the traditional bubble gum tucked inside, a Clemens rookie or a Canseco or Mattingly or McGwire card for collecting or trading. The expectation was that the information on the card was generally correct.

But in the last couple of years more and more error cards have hit the market, with prices that have left the value of the rookie or star cards often far behind.

In 1989 it was the Fleer Co. card of Billy Ripken with the obscenity on the bat handle that commanded $50 or more for several months before the demand slowed down. Supposedly one of Ripken's teammates had taped the offending words on the Orioles second-baseman's bat as a practical joke, expecting the prank would be quickly picked up. It wasn't, and the card went to print and distribution as it was. Fleer's recall and the publicity surrounding the event drove the value up quickly. One dealer at a show was even selling peeks at the naughty word for a dollar a look until show officials found out and ejected him from the hall.

Today the four versions of the Ripken card still bring far more than the typical 1989 card. With the obscenity present the card lists at $25; obscenity scrawled out in black brings $20; blocked out in black, it's only worth a single dollar, but blocked out in white brings $35.

Last year's Dale Murphy's Upper Deck card with the photo on the front of the card reversed went for as high as $180 before settling down to its current value of $130. The keys to error card value seem to be the player, the error, the number of cards made and whether the error was corrected. In this instance, Upper Deck "caught" the Murphy error promptly, leaving very few of the mistakes in circulation.

"It's really crazy," said Ed Marks, a dealer at a recent Pittsfield card show. "Errors are a flash in the pan, but they make sellers quick money when everyone's scrambling to own the latest one." He points out that most error cards jump up quickly in price during a frenzied period of demand, but then fall off just as quickly. "Oh, they'll stay higher than regular cards," Ed agrees, "but the guy who bought it when the price was up will never get his investment back."

Baseball Card magazine recently declared 1990 the Year of the Error. Its staff had identified more than 44 errors produced this year by the Big Five card companies — Topps, Donruss, Score, Fleer and Upper Deck.

What are some of the 1990 errors? Donruss produced two Nolan Ryan cards (659 and 665) on which the backs of the cards containing the statistics and other information were reversed. The errors currently fetch $12 apiece while the corrected versions lis for a dollar each.

Topps put out Billy Spiers' card with George Canales' picture and they gave Cecil Espy three stolen bases instead of 33. Score's 107 of Jamie Moyr comes with the word scintillating spelled correctly and incorrectly, and Bret Saberhagen has a card that lists him as a practical joke instead of joker.

Upper Deck led the

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Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

All in self-defense

Eagle 6.24.90 Pg. Bx3

A spate of attacks on area women led to a self-defense workshop yesterday, where Cindy Smegal, left, of Pittsfield practiced her newly learned skills when she was attacked from behind by Stacy Sagendorph of Lee. Sponsors of the free session were Berkshire Community College, Women's Services Center and Girls Inc.

Lee man pulled from Laurel Lake

Eagle 6.29.90 Pg. B1

PITTSFIELD — A Lee man was in critical condition at Berkshire Medical Center late last night after he nearly drowned in Laurel Lake in Lee yesterday afternoon.

David Bailey of Route 102, who police said is in his early 20s, dove into the lake from rocks located just north of the boat ramp on Routes 7 and 20 about 2:20 p.m. yesterday, said Lee Police Chief Edward J. Finnegan.

Finnegan said witnesses reported that Bailey, who also is known by a nickname, Chopper, swam out about 25 feet before turning around to head toward shore. After making the turn, witnesses said, Bailey began calling for help and rescue personnel were summoned.

Lee volunteer firefighters Glenn Wilcox and Darren Mooney got Bailey out of the water and onto a large pontoon boat owned by the nearby Black Swan Inn, Finnegan said. The boat was moved near the ramp, and emergency medical technicians treated Bailey on the deck for about 20 minutes before moving him to

SWIMMER, continued on B6

Lee places tax lien on resort

Eagle 7.5.90 Pg. C1

By Daniel Pearl
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Town officials have placed a lien on the Oak n' Spruce Resort for non-payment of real-estate taxes, but the resort's owners say they have worked out a payment plan.

Lee placed the lien late last month after Oak n' Spruce failed to pay $117,459 in delinquent taxes. The town had started tax enforcement procedures on the hotel, restaurant and condominium resort in previous years, but has never had to go this far, said Tax Collector Janice G. Smith.

The lien means Diversified Resorts Inc. of Falmouth, which bought Oak n' Spruce in 1985, cannot sell clear title to any of its real estate. But it doesn't prevent time-share sales because buyers get 75-year leases, rather than deeds.

Smith said Diversified now must pay 16 percent interest on the back taxes, rather than 14 percent, and deal directly with town treasurer John J. Nagle.

The town can move to foreclose the property if Diversified doesn't pay, but Smith said Diversified is trying to schedule payments.

Stan A. McLean, who directs Diversified's time-share sales, said he thought Diversified had already reached a payment agreement with the town.

But Smith said Diversified has told the town that efforts to reach a payment plan have been hampered by a government takeover of the resort's main lender.

Diversified took a $2.6 million loan from First Atlantic Savings and Loan Association of South Plainfield, N.J. in 1986. Diversified bought the resort for $1.3 million the year before and put millions of dollars into expansion.

Oak n' Spruce has been trying to refinance its debt with First Atlantic, which is now owned by the federal Resolution Trust Corp.

Lee board awards renovation pact

Pg. B4

Eagle 6.29.90

LEE — The Selectmen have awarded the bid for the renovation of Memorial Hall to Soulier & Zepka Construction Inc. of Adams for $622,979. The firm was the low bidder of five.

The project, which entails extensive renovation of both floors of Memorial Hall, is contracted to be completed by April 1991.

The Selectmen also voted Monday to once again contact Valerie Transportation Services about noise complaints from abutters of the Marble Street business. The Selectmen voted to warn the company of its contractual obligation to operate trucks only between 9 and 6. If it did not, the town would seek court approval to shut the business down.

In another matter, the board reiterated to former Police Chief John Boyne that he would need a building permit before he constructed a deck onto a house on Lois Street.

Boyne has already constructed the deck without the permit. The board previously ordered him to remove the deck and apply for the permit, but Boyne appealed to the Planning Board, which indicated it would defer to the Selectmen.

The Selectmen also announced that Mead Paper Co. has scheduled informational meetings for its proposed co-generation plant on Route 102. The meetings are slated for 7:30 at the Senior Center. The first meeting is tonight; the others are July 27, Aug. 30 and Sept. 27.

Swimmer pulled from Laurel Lake

■ SWIMMER, from B1

an ambulance for transport to BMC. Finnegan said he was unsure of how long Bailey was in the water. He may have been snared in weeds, the chief suggested.

As fire trucks, police cars and ambulances crowded the boat ramp area, an auto accident that injured two people occurred on the road.

Finnegan said that a northbound car operated by Daniel S. Trottier, 19, of Holland Road, Brimfield, Conn., collided with the rear of another northbound vehicle driven by Eric Person, 20, of 205-C Park Lane, Sheffield.

The chief said it appeared that Person had slowed to observe the activity by the lake and that Trottier, also distracted, failed to stop in time. Trottier and his female passenger, whom police did not identify, were taken to BMC where they were treated and released, a hospital spokeswoman said. Person was not hurt. Trottier was cited for following too closely, Finnegan said.

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Georgette Sorrentino of Lee was picking strawberries last week at Taft Farms in Great Barrington. Eagle 6.25.90 Pg. C1

Post card shows downtown Lee circa 1947 with Hyatt Hardware.

A look at bygone Main Street

Eagle 6.24.90 Pg. F1

By Gordon Hyatt
Special to The Eagle

STOCKBRIDGE

I ran into Casey Turner (Warren A. Turner of East Lee, our former state representative) one Saturday morning in Lee and, while we were standing by the trunks of our cars squinting from the reflected springtime sunlight, we got to talking how the Hardware Store at 54 Main St. was closing up forever.

It was a place that had played a part in both our lives — and the life of the town for four generations. We speculated over how much there was to tell about the place that wasn't mentioned when the store's final days were announced on May 18.

A few days earlier I had stopped in to the store and found a few customers picking over the remains of merchandise being liquidated at half price. I picked up a metal sign that said "Keys Made" and recalled that my father had bought the key machine and started cutting keys in the store more than 40 years ago. Charlotte Lester, the last co-owner, gave me the sign for a keepsake.

Main Street history

It's not major news, I suppose, when a shop on Main Street closes. Most small, successful businesses, I have read, run about 20 to 25 years before the owners retire or sell out. It

LEE, continued on F8

Gordon Hyatt, award-winning television producer, divides his time between New York and Stockbridge.

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Today's view shows Marble Hardware, last in the line, at right.

VNA Employes Honored

Courier 7.5.90 Pg. 12

LEE — Awards were presented June 28 to 16 employes of the Lee Visiting Nurse Association Homemaker Home-Health Aide Department.

Elaine Anderson, president, presented pins to those serving the VNA for 10 years or more. They include Louise Withers, homemaker home-health aide coordinator, 11 years; Alice Holley, 12 years; Ruth Ruthel, 12 years; Joanne Fairfield, 11 years; and Constance Wright, 10 years.

Five-year pins were handed out by D. Ann Beacco, director of nursing, to Shiela Crane, eight years; Geneva Daniels, eight years, Beverly Nickerson, seven years; Monica Joe Joe, six years; and Marianne Magistrelli, five years.

Ms. Withers recognized employes who have served less than five years: Shirley Richmond, four years; Marilyn Curtin, three years; Gail Taylor, three years; Margaret Ratigan, three years; Susan Tucker, two years, Jean Giarolo, two years; Linda Laptew, one year; and Robbin Eisenlohr.

The recognition day program, held at the senior center, was organized by Jane Kelley, supervisor of homemaker home-health aides.

Virginia Finn publishes new book

LEE — Virginia Sullivan Finn of South Lee and Belmont is author of a new book, "Pilgrims in the World: A Lay Spirituality," a $12.95 paperback published by the Paulist Press

The new book complements her earlier book, "Pilgrim in the Parish: A Spirituality for Lay Ministers," published by the Paulist Press four years ago.

Finn is associate dean of students at the Weston School of Theology in Cambridge. She holds degrees from Weston and the Center for Human Development. She is married to George Finn, and they have four grown daughters.

Eagle 7.7.90 Pg. B3

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A nostalgic look at Lee

Eagle 6.24.90

■ LEE, from F1

is what has happened to Main Street, with the universal automotive way of life of today, that Casey and I found we were really talking about.

He recalled how Saturday night used to be important to Main Street — how the farmers, as he called the local folks, all came into town on Saturday night and met on Main Street and in the stores and talked and had a social time.

Then, Casey recalled, payday for some was changed to Friday with the coming of the five-day week — and Saturday night on Main Street lost its importance.

It was in the late 1940s that some of the Lee merchants proposed changing the Saturday night hours to Friday. The senior merchant in town, J.T. Owens of the clothing store where Zabian's is now located, was dead set against any change. But change came anyway.

The hardware store was to persist through four owners before it reached the end of its value to the town of Lee — and to Main Street.

There's a photo of John Phelan, who established the store, still hanging in the back of the place. The picture shows Mr. Phelan in shirtsleeves, his wife — a stern-looking lady in horn-rimmed glasses — and a clerk, all standing in front of the plate-glass showcase window sometime after World War I.

A more permanent record is Phelan's name carved in the marble facade of his former building, high up under the cornice, a Phelan presence forever on Main Street.

Casey recalled having come to Lee in 1931, in the Great Depression. He made a small purchase.

"Phelan couldn't change a 20-dollar bill," Casey recalled. " 'Don't worry, pay me later,' he said, never even making a note. I tried to get change at another store. They couldn't change the bill, either. I had to go to the bank, finally."

Phelan died toward the end of World War II and the hardware store was purchased by William A. Clark, who owned the Lee Lumber yard up at the north end of Main Street. Clark moved all the heavy, oak cases upstairs and modernized with new fixtures featuring glass bins to display merchandise.

Some said that Bill Clark, who liked to see lumber by the truckload, was really bored with counting out a half-dozen wood screws or two lag screws for pennies and never liked the detail of a hardware store.

Right after the war he sold the place to my father and mother, Stephen and Bernice Hyatt. We moved to Lee in the midst of a snowstorm in January. Times were hard and merchandise scarce because of the war.

My father had been a traveling salesman before the war and knew the wholesalers in Boston so he was able to get a few scarce items — shovels, pails, fence, screen wire and, best of all, guns and ammunition.

The store was renamed Hyatt Hardware and Clark's clerk, Ed Lestage, remained for the first year. A lanky, white-haired man who wore a vest and sleeve bands, Ed used to roll his cigarettes in the front of the store over the red fiber drum that held the grass seed. One customer complained that half the grass purchased in the store came up tobacco.

Next came Charles Shaylor.

A day that grossed $400 was a red-letter day.

Good toys were still scarce and I sold him my own, outgrown Lionel electric train for his son's Christmas. If he kept it, he's a rich man today. Charlie Shaylor moved up on Main Street. He went to night school and became postmaster.

The next clerk provided a dark chapter, a fellow who, it was said, was drinking at the Morgan House with small change he had pilfered from the cash register. My father met him early one morning, confiscated his key and then, clerkless, wondered what to do for the Christmas rush. The first and only wonderful woman clerk, Elsie Ragulbuti, came in and saved the season.

How big was Christmas business in the late 1940s on Main Street? It was a major secret to my father, but it can do no harm today to admit that a day that grossed $400 was a red-letter day.

Then would come the doldrums of January, February, March. It never occurred to my father, or any other merchant on Main Street, to hold a sale during this period — people didn't have any money to spare anyway. His usual practice was to turn down the heat, knock off some of the lights, suffer through the days when he took in $30 or $40, and wait for spring when the seeds and the fishing tackle came out — and the summer people came back.

Casey Turner came to work for my father about the time I went off to college. I returned in 1955 to find that he was running for the state Legislature. The back room was stacked with campaign posters. Whenever a political ally came into the store, it was understood that Casey could have the privilege of a little privacy to discuss campaign issues.

Perfect clerk

The clerk who had the biggest effect on the hardware store, however, was Al Sieber, who arrived with a turnpike-building crew. Once in the Merchant Marine, he was a meat cutter who could sharpen any kind of blade, a carpenter, an electrician. And he knew where to shoot deer, spear suckers and find partridge.

In short, he was ideal for a Main Street hardware store, matching in mechanical skills the political skills of Casey Turner.

Meanwhile, Main Street was changing. The savings bank was pulled down and the Zacharia family moved the Lee Super Market to where the Park Street Garage had stood (now Price Chopper) and the Ben Franklin Store, the five and dime — in the Phelan Block — was sold to Harold Johansson, who soon relocated in the larger quarters where the grocery store had been.

This left a store vacant and Al Sieber, who was handy, built a laundromat. That laundromat almost undid the whole building.

After 25 years in business, my parents had decided to sell the store, retire and turn ownership over to the Lesters on Jan. 1, 1970. We were having Christmas Eve dinner up on Richmond Avenue when the fire whistle blew. One of the hot air ducts in the laundry had caught fire. Out came the Lee Fire Department in the chilly night.

'Tav Giarolo and the company saved the building, but the fire sure broke up Christmas Eve. The Lesters eventually opened up the wall between the old hardware store and the next door store to include the whole ground floor — and that's the way the building stood when the business closed.

It's funny, summed up Casey, how times have changed. People don't want to do manual labor anymore. Oh, they'll jog and play tennis — but many simply won't do work — they want someone to come and do it for them.

I was watching the cars whiz past on West Park Street — and thought they were the main reason why Main Street had changed, why the old hardware store was closing — for good.

Mead promotes two

Eagle 7.4.90 Pg. C1

LEE — Mead Corp.'s Specialty Paper Division has appointed Mahendra Mehta as director of research and development and James Scott as technical manager.

Mehta holds master's and doctor's degrees in chemistry from Jodhpur University in India and has done post-doctoral research at Baylor University in Texas. He joined the Mead corporate research and development center in 1984 and has worked with the Specialty Paper Division since 1987, monitoring long-term product development plans.

Scott is a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a degree in chemical engineering. He has 17 years of experience in research and development, process engineering, technology implementation, quality control and production management of high- and low-pressure laminates. He has worked extensively with resins and impregnation systems as well as with color-matching and printing processes.

The division produces saturating papers for decorative and industrial laminates and other specialty grades for a variety of applications. Its technical papers include analytical paper, friction filter paper, coffee filter paper and fire retardant paper.

Lee Man Drowns

Courier 7.5.90 Pg.7

LEE — David Bailey of this town died last week (see obituary notice) after having been pulled from Laurel Lake. Mr. Bailey dove into the water from rocks just north of the boat ramp. He swam out from shore and was heard calling for help. Rescuers pulled his body from the bottom and he was transported to Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, unconscious. He died the next day.

Pamela Morehouse gets $500 scholarship

LEE — Pamela Morehouse of Lee has been awarded a $500 scholarship from the Grand Chapter of the Massachusetts Order of Eastern Star.

A 1988 graduate of Lee High School, she will be a junior next September at Gordon College in Wenham, where she is majoring in psychology.

Currently she is serving two months with the Team Alliance Mission in Java, Indonesia, in a program sponsored by Gordon College and missionary organizations around the world.

The daughter of Rainsford and Judith Morehouse of South Lee, she is a member of the First Congregational Church of Lee.

Eagle 7.9.90 Pg. B2

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Klausmeyer conducts first of four meetings on proposed $50 million co-generation plant

Eagle 7-1-90 Pg. B2

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Saying that he was willing to run the risk of not having all the answers, the senior executive of the Mead Specialty Paper Division conducted a presentation at the Senior Center Friday night of the firm's latest plans for a 56-megawatt cogeneration plant at its Laurel Mill site in South Lee.

David Klausmeyer, president of the division, said that plans for the plant, which is expected to cost between $50 million and $55 million, have not yet been formally shown to any permitting authority. However, he said the company wants to answer questions from the community "up front," which is why it is sponsoring a series of public meetings such as the one held at the Senior Center.

Klausmeyer and officials of O'Brien Energy Systems, which would build the plant on land leased from Mead, said one of the benefits of the plant is that it would lower and stabilize Mead's energy costs. The company, which employs 350 people at two mills in Lee, faces intense domestic and foreign competition, said Klausmeyer, adding that cost control is essential to its survival.

The plant would use natural gas to produce electricity and steam. The steam would go to Mead's Willow and Laurel paper mills, and the electricity would be delivered to a Massachusetts Electric Co. substation on Route 102, Klausmeyer said.

Gas, steam lines

An 800-pound-per-square-inch natural gas line now runs through Mead's property, and Klausmeyer said that line would supply the gas for the plant. To bring steam to the Laurel Mill, a mile-long 8-inch underground line would be built on one of two routes: along a railroad right-of-way or along Route 102. Klausmeyer said that both routes are being evaluated, but the Route 102 option is now favored because the steam line would cross wetland areas if the railroad right-of-way were used.

A 3-inch line would be built alongside the steam line to return condensation to the plant, said Frank Wright, O'Brien's vice president for construction.

The route for the electric transmission line has not yet been chosen, although the candidates are essentially the same: Route 102 and the railroad right-of-way.

The 1½-mile power transmission line is now expected to carry 34.5 kilovolts until it reaches the substation, said Klausmeyer, adding that the company's data indicates that magnetic and electric fields directly under such a line fall far below the strictest standards now in effect in several states.

Klausmeyer and Wright noted neighbors' concerns about noise and light from the plant. Wright said that plans for the plant have been changed to include a wall that totally encloses the facility. Noise analysis will be done, and Wright said the plant would meet state guidelines for noise level.

"I can't promise you that the plant will make it quieter," he said. "I can promise you that it will not add noise."

Water from the Housatonic River would be used at the plant, and Wright said all water intake and discharge would be through existing pipes. A fact sheet on the plant indicates that it would use about 475,000 gallons per day.

Klausmeyer said the plant would be built to conform to the roof lines of Mead's existing buildings. The plant requires a stack, which Klausmeyer said would be between 130 and 180 feet high.

The company expects to begin applying for permits within the next two months, said Lewis Cohen, manager of the project, adding that all permits are expected to be in hand by early 1991. Construction of the plant is expected to take 18 to 22 months.

Three more public meetings about the project are scheduled, all for 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Center. The meetings will be July 27, Aug. 30 and Sept. 27.

Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Jeanne Davidson greets Vaughn Oliver, 9, who is visiting the Davidson family of Lee for the fourth time with the Fresh Air Fund. Vaughn lives on 110th Street in Manhattan. Eagle 7·10·90 Pg. A1

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Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

rking on a quilt that will be raffled to raise money for renovations to the Lenox Library is Dorothy Ramsey.

Quilt raffle to benefit library fund

LENOX — A group of quilters have donated more than 250 hours to design and sew a quilt that will be raffled off to benefit the campaign for the Lenox Library, said Helen Perry, president of the board of managers.

The medallion quilt has the library logo designed by Jonathan Nix as its center. The surrounding pattern is called Courthouse Steps, which is particularly appropriate, Perry said, as the building was once the Berkshire County Courthouse.

Nancy Marasco is coordinating the design and execution of the quilt. She has been aided by quilters Mary Newton, Mary Garrison, Judy Rufo, Kathleen Guy, Elaine Christopher, Mia Gilmore, Georgia Yablonsky, Pauline Stevens, Shirley Powers, Shirley Benson, Alice Hoff, Elizabeth Celli, Marguerite Modan, Dorothy Ramsey, Dorothy Fraser, Alice Klug, Clara Gennari, Jean Barker and Olive Francks.

Tickets, at $1 each or six for $5, will be available at the library and at other locations in Lenox and surrounding towns. The drawing will be on Oct. 20.

Demoted DPW foreman threatens suit

Eagle 7.10.90 Pg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — An employee of the town's Highway Department last night informed the Selectmen that if he were not reinstated to his position as foreman in that department, he would sue the town and individual members of the Department of Public Works.

In a letter to the board, Michael J. McCarthy, attorney for Dennis Kelly, requested that his client be reinstated to his job and that all letters and memos pertaining to his dismissal be removed from his file. He also requested $50,000 in compensatory damages.

Neither the Selectmen nor the DPW board would comment on the letter, pending a discussion of it with Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully.

McCarthy wrote that the DPW board had convened illegally April 9 to remove Kelly from his job. Later, when Scully told the board that its action was not proper, it met again April 19 and this time eliminated the position.

The letter noted that Kelly's union representative was not at either meeting and that Kelly was not allowed to know the reasons for either decision.

McCarthy added that the DPW's decision superseded the authority of Road Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo. This, he contended, was not consistent with the enabling legislation that formed the DPW board in 1970 and established the chain of command.

In the letter, McCarthy said Kelly did not want to take legal action against the town but was forced to hire an attorney because the DPW refused to "right its wrongs of its own accord."

In a related matter, the board agreed 2-1 to reappoint three members of the DPW board only until Aug. 1. The terms of the three, Martin Barenski, David Parker and John Piacquadio, ran out July 1.

Selectman Diane P. Roosa said she would like to advertise for volunteers for the three posts to see if other residents would be interested. Selectmen Chairman Joseph Dupont agreed but added that he did not wish to "put the DPW out of business," hence the decision to reappoint for only three weeks.

Dupont said the posts could be advertised but added that the town would have to advertise the availability of all other appointed positions as well.

Kathleen Daoust of Highfield Drive asked the board if such a

LAWSUIT, continued on B3

Lee DPW

Eagle 7.10.90

■ LAWSUIT, from B1

post carried any specific qualifications. Dupont said it did not, aside from a willingness to put in the needed time.

Selectman William B. Bean said he was satisfied with the job the DPW members were doing and voted against the conditional appointments.

Other business

In other business, the board:

► Voted to send a letter asking Century Berkshire Cable Co. to complete repairs to Paul Drive. In a letter to the board last night, Arthur H. Springer said a 46-inch-wide trench the company dug in the road has not been fully filled in. Stringer noted that the company completed work on the road six months ago.

► Voted to meet July 16 and 30. Roosa suggested skipping the July 23 meeting because the board's workload was easing in the summer. If the measure worked out, she said, the board could alternate weeks in August as well.

► Agreed to discuss with Police Chief Edward J. Finnegan increased foot patrols by police on the railroad tracks that run behind Main Street. The patrols would be mainly on the weekend, to watch for juveniles congregating on the tracks.

Lee Courier 7.12.90 Pg. 3

Former Foreman Sues Town Over Demotion

LEE — The attorney for former Highway Department employee Dennis Kelly told the Selectmen Monday evening that if his client's dismissal were not reversed he intended to sue the town.

In a letter to the board Michael McCarthy also demanded $50,000 in damages for his client.

Mr. McCarthy alleged that the Department of Public Works board had been improperly convened on April 9 when it removed Mr. Kelly from his foreman's position. He likewise contends that the DPW refused to inform Mr. Kelly of the reasons for his dismissal or to allow a union representative to be present.

Neither the selectmen nor DPW board members would comment on Mr. McCarthy's letter pending a review by town counsel Jerome Scully.

In other business Monday the selectmen:

— Temporarily reappointed for one month three DPW board members whose terms expired July 1. The board decided to advertise the volunteer positions to see if other residents might be interested in being considered for appointment;

— Decided to formally demand that Century Berkshire Cable Co. complete repairs, started six months ago, at the site of a trench it dug in Paul Drive. Residents have complained that the excavation was not fully refilled when the work was finished;

— Decided to consider meeting only on alternate weeks during the balance of the summer because of a declining workload.

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Courier 7·12·90 Pg. 13

First National Bank Affiliates With Holding Company

By John E. Larabee

LEE — First National Bank of the Berkshires, which a couple of years ago re-named itself from Lee National Bank, has now decided to reorganize itself again, this time as a subsidiary of a bank holding company based in Delaware.

According to Vice President Joseph Santora, the holding company, known as Lee Nationl Banc Corp., already has been formed in Delaware. It will acquire the bank through a stock swap, once approval is received from state banking authorities.

The purpose of all this, Mr. Santora said, is to protect the bank from "hostile takeovers."

In addition, he said, the move will permit First National to invest its excess capital in the public bond and equities markets (it currently is permitted to invest only in U.S. government-backed securities) and to acquire other banks and financial institutions such as insurance companies, should the right match come along.

"We have nothing in mind at the moment," he said during an interview Monday.

Planning on the changeover began some two years ago, Mr. Santora said, and so far had received the approval of the Federal Controller of the Currency and the Securities and Exchange Commission as well as the closely-held bank's 84 shareholders.

Two-thirds of the 22,016 outstanding shares needed to be voted in favor, he said; the actually tally was closer to 90 per cent.

The downside of the move, Mr. Santora said, is that bank operations will acquire an additional layer of regulation since such holding companies fall under the jurisdiction of the Federal Reserve Board.

Photo by Donald B. Victor

Bruce Kaiden, right, newly elected president of the Lee Chamber of Commerce, chats with Sen. Peter Webber (R-Pittsfield) folloiwng a recent legislators forum in Pittsfield.

All deposits continue to be insured as in the past, Mr. Santora said, and customers of the bank should notice no difference in their dealings with the bank as a result of the reorganization.

The board of directors for the holding company will be the bank's present board.

First National was formed originally in 1835 as the 835th federally chartered bank in the country.

Its name at the time, oddly enough, was Lee Bank; that recently became the new name of the former Lee Savings Bank, a strong local competitor of First National's with offices directly across Park Street here.

As of June 30, First National had deposits of $43,962,000, up from $41,985,000 at the same point in 1989.

Controversial Room Tax Yields Bonus

Berkshire Record 7·13·90 Pg. A.9

By Christine Burns

The towns of Lee and Lenox have recently received dividends from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue which were generated by the controversial optional increase in the room occupancy tax.

The standard room occupancy tax collected from hotels, motels, inns and bed and breakfasts that rent more than four rooms in all towns in Massachusetts is 5.7 percent. At special town meetings last fall, Lee and Lenox both voted to increase the hotel/motel tax currently outlined by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 64G Section 3A by four percent. The increase took effect January 1,1990.

The dividend Lee received from the locally optioned tax totaled $14,237 while Lenox received $49,799. These sums reflect only the tax collected from January to mid-May. The money was deposited in each town's general account.

Great Barrington accepted the extra four percent tax at its spring town meeting. Since the increase did not take effect until June 1, Great Barrington did not receive the first dividend.

According to a letter sent to the towns from the Department of Revenue, state officials are optimistic that the second dividends, which are due to be credited to the respective town accounts by December, will be much larger because they will reflect the service tax collected during the busy tourist season.

Lee, Lenox and Great Barrington were the only towns to accept the tax increase in Southern Berkshire County.

According to William R. Wilson Jr., executive director of the Berkshire Visitor's Bureau, there are several reasons why the tax increase faced opposition in many Berkshire County towns.

"The first reason is that the tax is short sighted in the sense that it seems to be a quick fix to the current financial situation that many of the towns are in," said Wilson.

"But long term, the tax is hurting the lodging industry in Berkshire County, because the county is surrounded on three sides by states that have lower room occupancy taxes. It may not greatly influence individuals renting a single room, but when you get into tours and things of that nature, the companies booking the tours are going to go out of Massachusetts because they could save a substantial amount of money."

Wilson argued that the tax was discriminatory because it targeted only one business in the entire community, the lodging industry. He also said that the tax was unfair because the money generated by it was not used to benefit the lodging industry in any way when the towns received their dividends.

"The tax is counter productive," said Wilson.

"On all levels, state, county and local, we're working to boost tourism. We're telling people to come to Massachusetts but at the same time we're slapping them with this extra tax."

The southern Berkshire County towns that voted against the four percent increase in the tax at their town meetings were Egremont, Sheffield and West Stockbridge.

Lee Grants Mobil Oil Gas Permit

7-13-90 Pg. A.9

By Christine Burns

Berkshire Record

LEE— The selectmen have granted a special permit to the Mobil Oil Company to expand the underground gasoline storage capacity at its Housatonic Street gas station.

According to real estate consultant Conrad R. Decker, who represents Mobil Oil, the site currently has a storage capacity of 20,000 gallons. The new permit will allow Mobil to store 40,000 gallons of gasoline.

Four separate storage tanks will be installed. There will be one tank containing super unleaded and and one tank holding special unleaded gasoline while two will be filled with the regular unleaded grade.

The existing tanks will be completely removed.

"The age of the tanks currently in the ground have warranted this change," said Decker.

"The oldest one is almost thirty years old. Because these tanks are so old, there is slight contamination in the ground surrounding them. The DEP has been alerted to this fact and they, along with Mobil Oil, are carefully monitoring the site."

Selectman William Bean noted that even if the permit change was not granted, Mobil would still have to replace the existing tanks due to the contamination.

Decker agreed with Bean that the tanks must be replaced. However, he said that it would not suit Mobil Oil's future plans for the site to keep just the 20,000 gallon capacity.

"If you're going to put the tanks in the ground now, you have to consider the projected volume for the next twenty years," said Decker.

=Lee Worker Weighs Suit

Berkshire Record 7·13·90 Pg. A3

By Christine Burns

LEE - Town officials received a letter from a lawyer representing a town employee informing them of possible litigation against the town and individual members of the Board of Public Works.

Attorney Michael J. McCarthy, of George, DeGregorio & Massimiano of Pittsfield, is representing Department of Public Works employee Dennis Kelly. In the letter sent to the selectmen, the PBW, the town clerk and town counsel, McCarthy claimed that there were illegal circumstances surrounding Kelly's demotion from working foreman to laborer/truck driver.

McCarthy made a demand of $50,000 in compensatory damages, a purging of Kelly's file of all documents related to the claim, and reinstatement of Kelly to his position as working foreman.

According to DPW Superintendent J. Peter Scolforo, the working foreman's job is a non-salary, union position. The working foreman is the first man called in to do a job outside of the regular 40-hour work week. The working foremen then decides how much man power will be required to complete the job. Scolforo is notified of all decisions made by the working foreman. This process involves overtime compensation. The usual scenario is that the working foreman is the first one called in to plow in the case of a snow storm.

On April 9, after a discussion about reducing the work force of the Highway Department, the BPW voted that effective April 23 Kelly would no longer serve as the working foreman of the Highway department, but would be retained as a truck driver.

According to the minutes of the BPW's meeting on April 19, the board received a letter from Town Counsel Jerome Scully stating the proper procedure for the elimination of the job. Scully recommended that the board vote to eliminate the position of working foreman within the department and to change the designation of the current working foreman to laborer-truck driver. In doing this, the board would avoid indicating any fault on the present working foreman or indicating that any disciplinary action is being taken against him.

Kelly, his wife Donna and three other DPW workers were present at this meeting.

The minutes state that Martin Barenski was not satisfied with Scully's letter and suggested that the board go into executive session to discuss the matter further. Stanley J. Daoust, one of the BPW employees present, questioned the legality of an executive session because it was not posted in advance. BPW Chairman Joseph Castranova said that since Kelly's lawyer had already notified Scully concerning the demotion, the board could go into executive session on the grounds of possible litigation against the town.

The board voted to go into executive session.

According to Kelly's legal claim, no notice of the executive session was given to him as required by the Open Meeting Law and the session was called under the pretext of pending litigation when no litigation was pending.

The claim also says that another vote to demote Kelly was taken during the executive session. According to the minutes of the session and of the regular meeting, no vote was taken that night.

However, in the minutes of the following BPW meeting on April 23, it says that the board met with Scully to discuss the vote taken on April 19 regarding the working foreman's position.

At the April 23 meeting, BPW member John Piacquadio made a motion that the vote taken on April 9 read as "The job of working foreman will be eliminated as of April 23, 1990." It was seconded by John Hughes. The five members who voted in favor of the motion, Castranova, Piacquadio, Barenski, Hughes and Morris Leahey, are the individuals who face possible litigation. David Parker and Timothy Taylor opposed the motion and do not face possible litigation.

Kelly is also charging that the votes to demote him were the result of malice held by the board members towards him and manifested an intent to retaliate against him for his exercise of protected rights.

The legal claim said the the malice was demonstrated by the board's call for an illegal executive session to demote Kelly, prior abstentions of Barenski on issues concerning Kelly due to Barenski's expressed dislike of Kelly and the board's suspension of Kelly after a tree cutting incident; no other was suspended.

Lee Rejects Work Plan On Leaky Water Tank

Berkshire Record 7·13·90 Pg. 1

By Christine Burns

LEE - The Board of Public Works voted to reject the proposed work change order of Tighe and Bond, the town's engineering consultant, for the repair of the leaky water tank on Fairview Street.

The leak was caused by the installation of the incorrect inlet pipe at the base of the tank. A ductile iron pipe was used instead of the proposed steel pipe. Ductile iron cannot effectively be welded to the steel floor plates in the tank.

The board received a copy of the draft of the work-change order sent from Tighe and Bond to J & A Construction Co., Inc., the pipeline contractor for the tank.

Tighe and Bond Chairman Philip W. Sheridan said in the letter that it was his firm's strong opinion that "the most proper and reasonable repair procedure is the installation of a 16-inch flanged adaptor."

The proposed work will include cutting through the existing tank floor plates, exposing enough of the 16-inch ductile iron pipe to install the steel flanged adaptor, and then welding the steel floor plates to the flanged adaptor.

The work order requires Pitt-Des Moines, Inc., the tank contractor to reinstall and repaint the floor plates in general accordance to the original contract with the town.

It also compels J & A Bayle to furnish and install an adaptor that is suitable for the welding to the floor of the tank and suitable for making a rubber compression joint in the ductile iron pipe.

The work order also states that J & A Bayle would assume all costs related to the repair of the inlet pipe. Also, this work would not alter any of the responsibilities or guarantees incurred by the pipeline contractors under the terms of their original contract.

However, the board's main concern with this method of repair is that the flanged adaptor will be located underneath the floor plates. This would make routine inspection of the adaptor difficult and future repair extensive.

"If we allow this type of repair, and the adapter chafes and leaks after the year guarantee for the tank expires, we're going to have to pay to fix it ourselves," said BPW Chairman Joseph Castranova.

Castranova motioned that the board instruct Town Council Jerome J. Scully to draft a letter to Tighe and Bond their rejection of thproposed work order. The motion was seconded and unanimously accepted.

However the board was hesitant to provide an alternate plan for repair.

Eagle 7·12·90 Pg. A6

On taxes, look beyond bottom line

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

Around the Boston area there's an expression for people who finally realize the obvious — "Light dawns on Marblehead." It appears that recent developments, locally as well as nationally, are serving to confirm this adage. To meet the needs and expectations of our advanced, enlightened and caring society requires revenues, which are currently not adequate, as well as the people and processes to assure responsible and responsive expenditures.

Apparently, many of us need to better inform and involve ourselves in the systems that govern us and spend our money, for it appears that "marbleheads" are not only found around Boston. The system of taxation should be fair and equitable and when restructured, the ability to pay should be given prime consideration. Despite the shift from lip-reading to proclaiming the obvious, there remain many hardliners on tax issues especially when their bottom line is asked to give up a little more, even though we're the third wealthiest state in the union.

Hopefully, the majority of the electorate will be enlightened about the disastrous consequences of the Citizens for Limited Taxation question on the November ballot. To cut billions of dollars from a budget which is currently inadequate would seem to require both heads and hearts of stone. While the appeal of rolling back taxes is hard to resist at first glance, we must not allow the sirens of limited taxation to lure the ship of public education into the dire straits of the lowest bond rating in the nation. The rollback in education and public services would deprive many of our citizens and leave us adrift toward a whirlpool of totally devastating consequences. CLT is ultimately bad for business as well as public-sector services and its question must be defeated. We must look beyond the bottom line.

NEIL F. CLARKE

Lee

Mead Cogeneration Plan Benefits From Tenaska's Costly Mistakes

Berkshire Record 7·13·90 Pg. A.8

By Christine Burns

LEE - The Mead Specialty Paper Division seems to have learned from Tenaska's mistakes.

In an effort to keep an up front and open relationship with residents of Lee, officials from Mead conducted the first of four informational meetings on the proposed 56-megawatt cogeneration plant at its Laurel Mill site on Route 102 in South Lee.

The plant will use natural gas to produce electricity and steam. The steam will go to Mead's Willow and Laurel paper mills and the electricity will be delivered to a Massachusetts Electric Company substation on Route 102.

Twenty-five concerned citizens attended the Friday night meeting to ask questions of Mead and O'Brien Energy Systems, the firm which will build the plant on land leased from Mead, about the proposed cogeneration facility.

David Klausmeyer, president of the specialty paper division, said that even though his company and O'Brien had not yet collected all the information needed to begin the permitting process for the $50-55 million project, he still was willing to field any questions from Lee residents.

"I know that we're running the risk of not having all the answers," said Klausmeyer.

"But finding the answers to your questions, will give us the opportunity to learn more about the best way to build this facility."

The two main points discussed at the meeting were the physical appearance of the plant and the proposed routes for the electrical transmission, gas and steam lines.

A rendition of the proposed plant showed that it will sit on the west side of the Laurel Mill.

Architecturally, the plant is on line with the other buildings owned by Mead.

"It was purposely designed to look like a part of Mead," said Klausmeyer.

The total area of the plant will be 190-feet by 170-feet. This is approximately one half the area covered by Mead's existing buildings.

Klausmeyer pointed out that in response to concerns expressed about the plant's potential for noise, the plans have been changed to enclose a part of the facility that was originally open ended.

The size of the emission stack for the plant has yet to be determined by the DEP. O'Brien's project manager, Lewis Cohen, estimated that the stack would be between 130 and 180 feet high. For comparison's sake, Klausmeyer said that the height of the water tower currently located on Mead's property was 126 feet.

The 800-pound-per-square-inch natural gas line that already runs along Mead's property will supply the gas for the plant. Berkshire Gas will be responsible for the construction and maintenance of the gas line. No public or private land will be affected.

There are two proposed routes for the mile-long, eight-inch line that will bring steam from the cogeneration plant to the Willow Mill. The first option is to run the line Route 102. The second option is to run the line along the Housatonic River behind the Mead plant in the railroad right of way. The 102 route is favored because the line would cross a wetland if it were constructed in the railroad right of way.

According to Frank Wright, vice-president of construction for O'Brien, another three-inch line will run alongside the steam line which will transport condensation back to the plant from the Willow Mill.

Route 102 is also the preferred route for the electric transmission lines from the plant to the Mass Electric substation 11/5 miles east.

Two Lee youths in drums corps

LEE — Matthew Baccoli and Timothy Maxfield, both of Lee, have been selected for the second year as members of the 1990 Bluecoats drum and bugle corps of North Canton, Ohio. The Bluecoats are ranked eighth among the world's drum corps.

The two youths were chosen after competing with several hundred applicants in cumulative auditions that ran from November until the end of May. They are participating in a national tour that began in June and will end Aug. 18 and are competing with similar organizations.

Baccoli is the son of Michael and Mary Baccoli of 337 East Center St. and is a graduate of Lee High School. Maxfield, son of Hayden and Eileen Maxfield of 199 High St., is a Lee High senior.

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Churchwalk Across Bay State Gets Under Way

LEE — A member of St. George's Episcopal Church will walk 650 miles in 40 days in order to usher in the Decade of Evangelism for the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

After a commissioning service at the Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield on Wednesday, July 25, Douglas Wilcox of 719 Marble Street, Lee, will walk to 69 Episcopal churches between Worcester and the New York border.

Wilcox will make his first stop in Berkshire County at St. Paul's in Otis on August 25. He will be in the county for the remainder of the walk until its conclusion on September 2 at the Christ Church in Sheffield.

The public is invited to join in at any part of the walk, the services to be held at each parish and the fellowship following the service.

Wilcox is an experienced hiker. In 1987, he hiked the entire 2,100 miles of the Appalachian trail from Georgia to Maine in four months. "In preparation for the prayer walk, I've been hiking or walking daily. Mentally I've been studying the route and figuring the distances between the parishes," said Wilcox.

According to The Rt. Rev. Andrew F. Wisseman, Bishop of the diocese, the purpose of the walk is to raise the awareness of the people in Western Massachusetts to the Decade of Evangelism. In a letter to all parishes, Wisseman said that the prayer walk will help build a sense of unity in the diocese.

Douglas Wilcox with Rev. An drew F. Wisseman.

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Chef's Corner

Berk. Record
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Pg. B. 4

Hoplands

The Hoplands in East Lee.

By Melanie Frager

SOUTH LEE— In the 18th century the section of land between Lee and Stockbridge, now known as South Lee, was called Hoplands. While the area has a new name, Hoplands is still around.

Now Hoplands is the name of a restaurant that caters to both the local and tourist population in the Berkshires.

The restaurant opened three years ago and has been under new ownership since July of 1988.

"We have good food that is reasonably priced," said Sheila Nickerson, one of the restaurant's owners.

"At Hoplands the key is basic - consistant and reliable. If customers come in they expect to get the same thing they got last time and have it prepared the

been established as a tradition at Hoplands. People come especially for our homemade desserts which are fabulous," said Nickerson.

"We started those a couple years ago and have been making them ever since. We will make them until we can't get fresh apples anymore," said Meddaugh.

Hoplands makes an effort to only serve seasonal food, adamantly adhereing to the policy of serving only fresh food.

"We always try to stay seasonal as much as possible. We want the public to get food at reasonable prices," said Nickerson.

"We keep on getting better. I learn things every day and am always creating new things. We have a lot of regulars who come back and come right into the kitchen to say hi," said Meddaugh.

"We have hours but no one is ever turned away. We will always accomodate, it just depends on how far the process of cleaning up has gotten," said Nickerson who will offer cold sandwiches and chips to people if the kitchen has already been closed down.

Hoplands also has a full bar and customers are always welcome to come in to drink or order appetizers at the bar.

"Anytime you come into Hoplands, you feel welcome. One of the things that has helped keep the local people is that everyone feels special. We have a casual atmosphere with a very relaxed setting," said Nickerson.

Hoplands, Route 102, South Lee, 243-4414.

Lee to Begin Food Program

Berk. Record
7.13.90

LEE—The Tri-Town Health Department has announced that the starting date of the Food Certification program sponsored by the department will be postponed until August 22.

According to Max Bookless, Assistant Health Agent, the delay from the original starting date of July 18 will allow ample time to order text books and other related course materials.

People who have signed up for the course, but have not yet registered for it must send their registration along with the fee to Presentation Service West, P.O. 2235, Pittsfield, MA 01202.

Any food service operations outside of the Tri-Town area are also welcome to participate.

For further information, contact Bookless or Peter Kolodziej at the Tri-Town Health Department. Pg. B 4

Odyssey of an eastbound taxi

Eagle 7.13.90 Pg. A1

By Ellen G. Lahr
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Donald Abbott was gassing up his taxi and buying some lottery tickets at 1 a.m. yesterday at Grampy's convenience store on Route 20 when an old acquaintance showed up and said he needed a lift to Westfield.

"It never dawned on me it was the same guy the police were looking for," said Abbott, 65, owner of Abbott's Limousine Service in Lee. "At first I didn't recognize him, but he said, 'Hello, Mr. Abbott!' "

Friendly and convincing, Robert Beverly told Abbott his car had broken down and he needed a ride to Westfield. Abbott said the fare would be $45, and Beverly said fine. Abbott, who had been ready to call it a day, phoned his wife, Jackie, to tell her he was taking a fare to Westfield.

It turned out to be no ordinary fare.

Eastbound on the turnpike, Abbott said, he chatted with Beverly, who had used Abbott's taxi about 10 years ago when he and his family lived in Becket. But Don Abbott had no idea the congenial man in his car was the same Robert Beverly suspected of killing a 29-year-old Pittsfield woman.

Abbott also had no idea that police and prosecutors in Litchfield, Conn., were sifting through a stack of evidence from Pittsfield police, preparing an arrest warrant on a charge that Beverly murdered Marilyn Roy Bigelow, whose body was discovered Wednesday morning near a Canaan, Conn., quarry.

Beverly would be arrested at 1:30, 10 minutes after a Connecticut judge signed the papers, when Abbott took Exit 4 in West Springfield.

But until the warrant was signed, police could only try to keep track of him.

In Pittsfield's police headquarters, Capt. Walter M. Boyer was waiting by the phone for the go-ahead from Connecticut. As Beverly started heading toward the turnpike, Boyer called authorities in Connecticut, telling them to hurry, because Beverly was leaving the area. And with so many hours invested in the case, Pittsfield police, especially the Pittsfield detail in an unmarked car in

TAXI, continued on B4

Tracking a murder suspect

■ TAXI, from A1

Eagle 7.13.90

Lee, wanted to make the arrest themselves.

But over the police radio, Boyer told the contingent in Lee to sit tight.

"If he's going to Westfield, there's not much we can do about it," Boyer advised. "We can't make the pinch without the paper."

Pittsfield police had begun following Beverly shortly after authorities in Connecticut identified Bigelow's body. Police said that the body, with signs of foul play, was all they had needed for three months to arrest Beverly, who they said was the man last seen with her on April 14.

The investigation was stalled when on June 12 Pittsfield got a critical tip from Lee police. Lee officers told Pittsfield that they remembered stopping Beverly's southbound car for speeding on the short section of Route 7 in Lee. Had police run a check on the vehicle, they would have found that it was unregistered and uninsured, offenses that prohibit a driver from driving any further.

'Wife' was 'sick'

Michael Roy, Bigelow's brother, told The Eagle yesterday that he had been told by a police officer that Beverly jumped out of the car and told the Lee police he was taking his "wife" to Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington because she was sick. Lee officers looked inside Beverly's car, Roy said, and saw a woman resembling Bigelow in the passenger seat, and, when she did not ask for help, let the two drive off. They never arrived at Fairview.

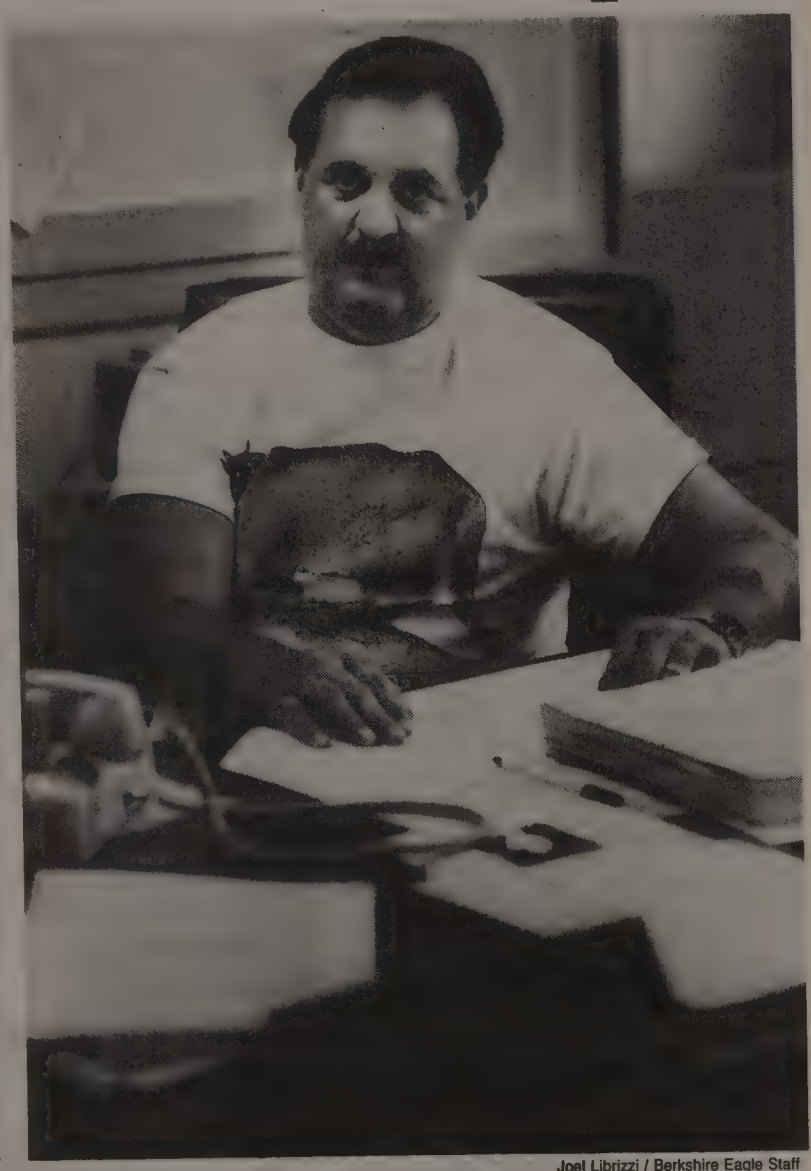
Other sources have confirmed Roy's story, adding that Bigelow appeared to be going along with Beverly's story. It is still not clear why Lee police did not report the incident to Pittsfield until two months later.

But the Lee tip redirected the search to South County. Vague leads pointed police in the direction of Sheffield and Ashley Falls, just north of the Pfizer Corp. property where she was ultimately discovered.

Then, on Monday, a solid, specific lead came from a man calling from a pay phone on North Street. He said he had information about the case, and police told him to come in and give a statement.

After almost an hour — an hour in which police thought the man might not show up at all — he arrived. He told police Beverly had asked him for a lift to Canaan on April 15 — the day after Bigelow disappeared, the day police questioned Beverly and asked to search his car.

Police said the man told them



Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Detective Gary W. Danford, who participated in Wednesday's successful search for Marilyn Bigelow, goes over her case at the Pittsfield Police Station.

Connecticut state police and search dogs. Some of the dog handlers were from out of state and were in Connecticut for training.

It took 41 minutes for a woman firefighter from Minnesota and her dog to find Bigelow's body, hidden by underbrush on a hillside near the quarry. Her clothes identified her, Danford said. The brand new Avia sneakers that had been mentioned in descriptions of her clothing were still on her feet; her rings were on her fingers. Her skull had been fractured, her ribs cracked.

While police investigators scoured the area for physical evidence, work began on the warrant for Beverly's arrest. But the case took on different dimensions in Connecticut, which has stricter laws about arrest warrants than does Massachusetts.

Danford, who spent Wednesday night reviewing the case with Connecticut authorities — including a judge and a prosecutor — I wasn't going to play this year because he had been injured.

When Abbott noticed two police officers trailing him, he said, he made sure he wasn't speeding, but their lights were not flashing. He commented to Beverly about the cops, but Beverly didn't seem concerned, said Abbott. Then another cruiser appeared, then another, and another. Abbott slowed to 40 mph, he said, dumbfounded at the parade of cruisers behind him.

"I thought, 'What the hell is this? I didn't do anything wrong, did I?' I couldn't understand why they didn't pass me," he said. "I didn't even know anything. I knew him, and he seemed like a nice person."

At one point, Beverly said he had to relieve himself, so Abbott pulled off the side of the road. So did all the police, waiting patiently for Beverly to get back in the car.

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Laurel Lake weeds seen as menace to swimmers

Eagle 7.15.90 Bg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Two drownings in 11 months have some local officials worried that the weed problem in Laurel Lake is no longer a nuisance but a danger to swimmers and boaters.

Last Monday, the Selectmen approved $400 for another session of weed-cutting on the town beach this summer. This decision came after Deidre M. Consolati, chairman of the Laurel Lake Clean Lake Commission, told the board that the weeds have been growing faster than ever. The town has usually cut the weeds twice a year, in front of both the town beach and the boat landing. Farther north along the lake, Lenox harvests weeds along its town beach area.

"The weeds are really getting bad," Consolati said. "This is the worst year I can remember."

Health problem

Consolati stopped short of saying the weeds were the sole reason for the drowning deaths of David Bailey, 23, of Route 102 and Steven Huber, 28, of Lenox Dale. But she did tell the board she believed the weeds were becoming a health problem that the town should address. The board quickly agreed.

"Anytime we can spend money to save lives, I think we have an obligation to," said Selectman Diane P. Roosa.

Huber and Bailey had apparently been swimming beyond the boundaries of where the weeds are cut when they drowned. Bailey, who was diving off rocks just north of the boat ramp on June 28, had swum out about 25 feet into the lake when he began calling for help. A rescue squad pulled him out of the water and he was treated at Berkshire Medical Center before dying.

Huber, swimming north of the boat ramp, apparently swam into a heavily weed-choked portion of the lake and may have been pulled under. That incident occurred Aug. 4, 1989. Divers attempting to find Huber's body had difficulty navigating underwater because of the thick weeds.

Laurel Lake is one of several weed-infested lowland lakes in Berkshire County. Although there are thousands of acquatic weed varieties worldwide, the principal culprit in Berkshire County is water milfoil, a European plant introduced to lakes here about 25 years ago, according to William Enser, president of Berkshire Aquatic Harvesters.

Enser said the milfoil looks attractive in aquariums, which is probably why people brought it to the United States in the first place. But when milfoil was

WEEDS, continued on B3

Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Deidre M. Consolati, at the Kimberly-Clark dam on Laurel Lake, says this is the worst year she can remember for weeds in the lake. The Selectmen authorized funds for one more weed treatment.

Weeds grow beyond nuisance

Eagle 7.15.90

■ WEEDS, from B1

disposed of, some made its way into Laurel Lake, Lake Buel, the Stockbridge Bowl, Pontoosuc Lake and other Berkshire lakes.

Grows like tree

Milfoil is asexual, which means it reproduces by fragmenting, not pollination. It also grows like a tree, rather than a bush, so it does not entirely die out in the winter, Enser said. Instead, the winter cold shrinks the weed back into the water slightly. Warmer weather provokes a growth spurt, he said.

Adding to the proliferation of the plant is the age of the lakes in the county, Enser said. The lakes are older bodies of water, and nutrients such as sewage and sludge have been pouring into them for more than a century.

down the lake. Kimberly-Clark Corp. owns the water rights to the lake, but won't allow a drawdown because it needs the water in its paper-making operation. Cutting the weeds costs Lee and Lenox a total of about $6,000 for two cuttings per season along the beaches and boat landing.

Lee and Lenox have separately arranged weed control for about 10 years. A committee has been trying to organize both towns to coordinate the work to save money.

Weeds are snakelike

Milfoil grows like a hemp, Enser said, which means it is very strong and tensile. And much of the shoreline of Laurel Lake is ringed with the weed.

Entanglement with the weeds was not cited as the sole reason

snake out dozens of yards from the clumps.

Enser warns swimmers who do become entangled to relax and slow down. The weeds will probably slough off.

"Divers know that if you do get caught, you must not thrash," he said. "Thrashing only tightens the weeds around your body."

The lake is not completely given over to weeds, Enser said. The deeper parts of the lake are still clear, since Milfoil tends to thrive in water shallower than 12 feet.

"There is a lot of open water in the middle of the lake," Enser said, "but getting to it can be a problem for motorboats. I would say canoes can navigate the 'weed ring,' but motorboats would have a very hard time, to say the least."

Consolati and Enser agree that

E3

Water Street Market has butcher, baker, fruit, seafood

Partners open bakery in East Lee

Eagle 7.15.90

Pg. F3

By Rose Foley
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Toni Bessette and Deirdre Chapman, both of Lee, met two years ago in a culinary arts program at Berkshire Community College. Now they're operating a bakery together.

Peacock Pastries opened May 19 at 123 Water St. (Route 20) in East Lee. The bakery, along with The Fruit Basket, Terranova's Butcher Shop and Simply Seafood are all in the building known as Water Street Market.

The bakery occupies 240 square feet of floor space sublet from Rodney and Tina Clark of Lee, who own the building and The Fruit Basket.

Partner enthusiastic

Bessette, 34, said she had always wanted to go into catering but thought that the bakery could work if she had a partner. So in January she called Chapman, who had just moved three weeks before to Boston, to see if she'd like to form a partnership.

Chapman, 32, said there was no question as to what she would do. "I'd love to do this," she said.

"So we talked and talked and talked," said Bessette and the idea became a reality — with some hard work and assistance with the required paper work from the Small Business Administration. Both declined to say how much money they invested in starting the bakery.

The bakery offers a variety of breads, including French, Italian, sour dough and cottage dill. The last is made with cottage cheese and seasoned with dill and onion. Most breads cost under $2.

The two bakers make cookies and other treats, including snickerdoodles, whoopie pies, ginger snaps and date bars. The large cookies cost 50 cents, the smaller cookies varying amounts.

Then there are the pies, which, when they were talking about their enterprise, Chapman and Bessette made as they talked. Chapman rolled out the dough and Bessette cut up fresh fruit to put in the pies. Fruit pies cost $7 each. Flavors include blueberry, strawberry, plum and peach.

They make cakes by special order and also offer French pastries.

"We want to stress that we make everything here ourselves — no mixes," said Bessette.

Bessette and Chapman do get help from their families. Bessette's children, Sarah, 8, and Joshua, 10, help with the customers and Chapman's mother, Beth, helps with the baking.

Deirdre Chapman said baking is a longtime favorite of hers.

Looking at her mother, she said kiddingly, "She's very sorry she bought me an Easy-Bake Oven."

The bakery is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week. On Fridays, it's open until 7 p.m. .

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Peacock Pastries has been added to the Water Street Market in Lee by partners Deirdre Chapman, left, and Toni Bessette.

Butcher shop follows family path

By Rose Foley
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — There's something sentimental about Michael Terranova running a butcher shop.

His father, Leonard, owned Humason's Store — a general store with a butcher shop — until he sold it in 1979.

"I knew it was something I could do besides cooking," said Terranova, 31, of East Lee. On May 17, he opened Terranova's Butcher Shop in the Water Street Market at 123 Water St. in East Lee. It's in the same building as The Fruit Basket.

Opening the butcher shop was a little scary.

The butcher shop, adjacent to the newly opened Peacock Pastries, occupies 240 square feet in the store, sublet from owners Rodney and Tina Clark of Lee.

Terranova, who earned a culinary arts degree at Johnson and Wales College in Providence, R.I., said he had invested $15,000 just in the butcher shop's equipment.

The prospect of opening the shop was a little scary, he said. He didn't get much sleep and worried about not getting a regular paycheck, but he decided to take the risk anyway.

The shop offers various cold cuts, pork chops, chicken, roasts, steaks and freshly ground meats. Slab bacon can be cut to order.

Within the butcher-shop space is Simply Seafood, which Terranova said he co-owns wih Rodney Clark. Simply Seafood offerings include fresh fillets, clams, shrimp and lobster.

Terranova's Butcher Shop and Simply Seafood are open seven days a week 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and until 7 p.m. on Fridays.

The Clarks are the owners of the building that houses the fruit store, butcher shop, seafood area and bakery. The Clarks said they invested $155,000 in the excavation and construction of the building. They also own the flower shop next door and are former owners of the East Lee Package Store across the street, which they recently sold.

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Lenny Terranova is assistant manager at Terranova's Butcher Shop, one of the most recent additions to the Water Street Market building in East Lee.

Eagle 7.17.90 Pg. B3

Old cane fetches $18,700

Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Louis Caropreso holds prized folk-art cane.

LEE — A New York City art collector purchased for $18,700 a walking cane carved around 1890 in Massachusetts, possibly in Adams, at the Caropreso auction Saturday.

Louis Caropreso, auctioneer and owner of Caropreso Galleries on High Street, would say only that the purchaser is a famous collector of antiques.

Caropreso said the cane is inscribed with the name R.B. Dean of Adams. He said it is not known if the carver was Dean or if the cane was carved for Dean. However, he said it is definite that the cane was carved in Massachusetts.

"It would not surprise me if it was carved in Adams," he said.

The handle of the folk-art maple cane has an eagle with a shield carved on one side and an alligator with a lion's head in its jaws on the other. The shaft has carved into it an angel petting a dog, a leopard and the Lord's Prayer. A snake winds around the shaft, and other animals, such as birds and dogs, also are depicted, said Caropreso.

He said the next-highest bidder was from Denver.

Caropreso said he had thought the cane would sell for between $1,000 and $3,000, but the bidder from Denver told him to start the bidding at $10,000.

He said the purchaser recently bought a collection of antique toys for $3 million and a piece of jewelry for $300,000. The collector owns the mate to the newly purchased cane, he said.

He said the highest price for any item sold at the auction house was the $110,000 paid for a Dutch painting at the beginning of this year.

A Lee cabby's taxing trip with Beverly

South Advocate 7.18.90 Pg. 1

"The taxi business is a tough business. I keep getting robbed."

— Donald Abbott

By Erik Bruun

With all the drivers in Berkshire County, it is no surprise that accused murderer Robert Beverly chose Donald Abbott of Lee to be his getaway driver.

In 26 years in the taxi and limousine business, Abbott has pretty much seen it all. He has been robbed, assaulted and even hijacked to Canada at gunpoint.

"You get many, many experiences in this business," says Abbott, who is white-haired, friendly and very talkative. Abbott's most recent claim to fame was being Beverly's driver in the early morning of July 12 when the Pittsfield man was arrested by state police for allegedly murdering Marilyn Roy Bigelow of Pittsfield three months ago.

"I was at Grampy's and this man asked for a lift to Westfield and I said it would be $45 and he said 'no problem,' " Abbott says. "So I got on the turnpike and there were two cruisers following us and then there were two more. I pulled over to let them go by and they wouldn't."

Continued on Page 20

A Lee man's taxing taxi ride

Continued from page 1

"Pretty soon there were eight or 10. There were so many I lost count. Beverly was as calm as could be. I couldn't figure out what was going on, I was so gullible."

Police were following Beverly so they could apprehend him once authorities got the paperwork together for an arrest warrant.

"Then all their lights went off and they surrounded me. They told me to get out of the car and I said 'For what?' and they said Beverly was wanted for murder."

Although Abbott, 65, said Monday he still hadn't calmed down from the incident, he added that it was only the latest in a series of bizarre events that have occurred while he was driving taxis and limousines.

Abbott started Abbott's Taxi Service 26 years ago after he lost a leg in an industrial accident at Lee Lime Corp. Abbott says after the accident he drank heavily and needed something to do. One day after he couldn't find a job he decided with his wife Jackie to start a taxi business.

"I worked 11 or 12 hours on that first day and made $1.75. I went home and I told my wife 'Look it, I didn't drink all day.' I've been driving ever since. I was doing it to rehabilitate myself," he says.

Since then, Abbott has accumulated a number of stories and anecdotes about customers, many of whom became friends. Several were celebrities, such as Stephen Spielberg, Norman Rockwell and Amy Irving. Many, however, provided for some hair-raising rides. Twenty years ago, he says, a man pulled out a .45-caliber automatic pistol and told him to take him to Montreal, Canada.

"He got in the cab and said we're going to Montreal and I said well I'll need the money first. And he said 'No you don't' and he pulled out a 45. So we went," he says.

"He was drunk though and he was drinking more and more and I kept on encouraging him until he passed out. Then I turned around and headed back south. I kept speeding hoping that I'd get stopped by the police but nobody stopped me. Then I drove to the Pittsfield police station and honked my horn until the police came out. He never figured out how we ended up back in Pittsfield," Abbott says.

More recently, Abbott says he took a man carrying two suitcases to The Bronx in New York City. When the man tried to leave without paying, Abbott refused to return his suitcases. Abbott stayed in the same place waiting for the man to return [illegible] the money. Finally a police cruiser

Locals miss parade

Pg. A6

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:

I was very impressed with the Fourth of July Parade as was everyone around the country. I worry, though, that now that we have gone national it just isn't "our parade" anymore. There was a serious lack of bands from the schools in Berkshire County.

One couldn't help but get the feeling that now it is national, maybe our local schools and groups are intimidated and don't march. I sure hope local Berkshire County schools are in no way discouraged from being in the parade.

JUDITH PERRY

Lee

Eagle 7.18.90

65

South Advocate 7-18-90 Pg. 5

Meade hopes to reduce $30,000 fine

Executives at Meade Specialty Paper Division in Lee are hoping to reduce a $30,280 fine imposed on the company by federal safety inspectors for an alleged 63 safety violations at the Willow Street mill.

Meade officials will meet July 23 with U.S. Department of Labor officials to discuss resolving the violations and lowering the fine. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced the fine and violations at Meade on July 12.

Although Meade president David Klausmeyer says he was aware of the violations and was taking steps to resolve them, he was "surprised" by the amount of the fine and the sharply worded statements that accompanied OSHA's press release.

"What we found is that the safety and health program at Meade had fallen by the wayside," said Ronald E. Morin, OSHA's area director for western Massachusetts during a telephone interview.

Violations included exposing workers to moving elevators and to being struck by rolls of paper, failing to develop an employee hazardous-waste safety-training program, failing to provide for emergency lighting, failing to label hazardous-waste materials and failing to install safety equipment.

Morin said Meade was cooperating in dealing with the problems and was working with OSHA. He added that conditions at Meade were not very unusual for New England paper mills and that some mills have been fined much more heavily for violations. Also on July 12, OSHA announced a $156,400 fine against Crane and Company Inc. in Dalton for 52 violations.

Several town officials and Lee residents expressed surprise at the fine because of Meade's generally good reputation in town as a good employer that is involved in community affairs.

Klausmeyer says Meade is being "open-minded" about OSHA's actions but that the company takes exception to some alleged violations. He added that about two-thirds of the violations cited have been examined or are being worked on by Meade.

"I'm trying to maintain a very open and constructive position on this. We are sensitive to reducing unsafe conditions. I welcome OSHA's action as a resource because of its constructive nature," he says.

Anonymous $10,000 gift made to Lee ambulance uni

Eagle 7-18-90 Pg. B2

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Selectmen have accepted, with great pleasure, an anonymous donation of $10,000 to the town's ambulance squad.

Kenneth LaBier, president of the ambulance-service committee, told the board the donor wanted to remain unnamed because he was not interested in publicity, but in helping the ambulance squad.

"He really wants to stay out of the public eye," LaBier said.

LaBier said almost half the money will be used immediately, to purchase needed equipment for the ambulance squad. Such equipment, he said, consists of items the squad normally replaces piece by piece on a year-by-year basis. The additional funds, he said, will enable the squad to replace the older equipment faster.

Secretary's hours

In another financial matter that came up at the board's Monday meeting, the Selectmen approved an increase in the number of hours worked by interdepartmental secretary Carol Marino, from 18 to 22 a week.

Both Building Inspector Robert Lester and several members of the Planning Board endorsed the move, explaining that Marino already works at least 22 hours weekly but is only paid for 18. At present, she splits her time between the Planning Board a building inspector.

"She's invaluable," Lester sai "A lot of times, when I leave five she's still here working."

Assistant Town Treasurer P ricia Carlino also praised Mari but told the Selectmen that, on over the 20-hour threshol Marino would be eligible for surance and benefits.

She added that town officia also told the town representativ that the town would not be ad ing another full-time position the most recent annual tow meeting. Selectman Diane Roosa countered that the crease in Marino's hours did n constitute a new position b merely an expansion of the o one.

The Selectmen voted unan mously to increase Marino hours. The increase represen less than $2,000 annually, Carli said.

In other business, the boar received the application of Ka hleen Daoust for membership o the town's Depertment of Publi Works. The town will make th appointments at its July 31 mee ing.

In a related matter, the boar agreed to meet with the DPW an James and Donna Toomey Cliffwood Avenue to discuss alle gations by the Toomeys that DP Chairman Joseph Castronova wa exceeding his authority.

The Toomeys, in a letter to th Selectmen, charged that Cast ronova overruled town counse Jerome J. Scully in denying then a building permit for a house a the Mandalay Road development.

Selectmen Chairman Joseph DuPont said that he did not be lieve Castronova had exceeded his authority, adding that as DPW chairman, Castronova had the right to act as he saw fit. But he agreed to a meeting to discuss the matter. The board agreed to se the meeting up when Castronova returns from vacation in three weeks.

The board also agreed to schedule another meeting with Vallerie Transportation Inc. to discuss alleged noise problems on the site of the business. DuPont said he has heard from abutters who have told him the noise problem is getting worse, not bet-ter.

The Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception has awarded scholarships to Kathryn Anne O'Brien of Lee, left, standing beside the Rev. Shaun O'Connor, director of the Marian Helpers Center in Stockbridge, and Andrew M. Martin of Pittsfield and Ellyn N. Nettleton of Housatonic, right.

First Annual Scholarships Given By Marians

Berk. Courier 7-19-90 Pg. 3

STOCKBRIDGE — The Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception, through its Association of Marian Helpers on Eden Hill, has awarded three $500 scholarships for the 1990-1991 school year.

As a way of helping young people grow in both faith and wisdom, the Marians plan to give similar scholarships each year to Catholic students planning to attend Catholic colleges.

The George Matulaitis MIC Scholarship, given in honor of the renovator of the Marians (beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1987), was awarded to two St. Joseph High School graduates: Kathryn Anne O'Brien of Devon Road in Lee, who plans to major in English and philosophy at Providence College; and Andrew Michael Martin of 93 Cummings Ave. in Pittsfield, who will study industrial psychology at Siena College.

The Joseph Jarzebowski, MIC Scholarship named for the Marian priest who began spreading devotion to the Mercy of God here in America after escaping from the Nazi SS in Lithuania, was given to a Monument Mountain Regional High School graduate, Ellyn N. Nettleton of 5 Comstock Lane in Housatonic, who will pursue a program in mathematics and computers at The Elms.

The scholarship awards were made personally by association director Father Joseph MIC on July 6 at the Marian Helpers Center in Stockbridge.

town topics

The Advocate July 25, 1990 Page

Page 6.

Selectmen appeal low-income housing ruling

The Lee Selectmen have filed an appeal of a Superior Court decision allowing the Housing Authority to proceed with a plan to build 16 units of public housing on Marble Street. Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully, however, says the appeal was made only as a precautionary measure so that the selectmen can meet and decide whether to fight the court's decision. The deadline for an appeal in the Appellate Court is this week, but the selectmen did not hold their weekly meeting this week and will not meet again until Monday. The Lee Housing Authority approved the project two years ago, only to have the Zoning Board of Appeals reject a comprehensive permit. The Housing Authority appealed the decision to the state Housing Appeals Committee, which overturned the ZBA's decision. The selectmen, however, then appealed that ruling to Superior Court.

Lee ZBA says desist

The Lee Zoning Board of Appeals has ordered Building Inspector Robert Lester to issue a cease-and-desist order to Massachusetts Municipal Engineering Consultants for operating their business in a residential district. The ZBA approved a similar order against the firm on Devon Road earlier this year which the company appealed to District Court. The board, however, reaffirmed its decision against the company in a meeting last week.

hich remain prized as collec-

Susan Hogan of Mann Hill obtained all the necessary the project, which they hope ome housing which could be w-cost loans from the Ver-e Agency.

archaeological consultant site, and after a preliminary old kilns and a quantity of e area where the new pro-

nancial backing, it would be bject underway in Benning-Warren Foster, coordinator

and nearby

Capt. Jo moved to first Vermo William H which credi first maker of a line o Edward a pottery for Franklin with a par he began 500"-rank wheels, re takeover

Pg. B6

Hodgkins backs police merger, too

LEE — Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, said yesterday that a statement by one of his opponents in the race for state representative of the 4th Berkshire District concerning the state Senate's rejection of plans to consolidate several state police agencies was "misdirected."

Hodgkins was referring to a press release issued by Republican Bruce Hull of Great Barrington that appeared in Thursday's Eagle. Hull criticized the state Legislature for its rejection of a plan that would eliminate the Registry Police, the Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police, a Boston-area police force.

The three police forces were to have been merged with the state police, a potential savings of about $3 million to taxpayers, according to Hull.

But Hodgkins said yesterday that his opponent's efforts were "misdirected," as the state House of Representatives has included this merger in its budget for the past two years.

"I've sponsored legislation for this [merger] for the past five years," he said. "I agree with him on the issue, but the problem is in the Senate. They're the ones blocking this." Eagle 7-21-90

Anonymous Gift Made To Ambulace Squad

LEE — A publicity-shy supporter has given $10,000 to the town's ambulance squad, which the Selectmen this week accepted and dedicated, in part, to the acquisition of equipment.

Kenneth LaBier, head of the town's ambulance committee, said almost half the money, given by someone "who really wants to stay out of the public eye" could be spent immediately on equipment that normally would be replaced piecemeal as funds became available.

In other business Monday the Selectmen:

— Increased the number of authorized hours worked by interdepartmental secretary Carol Marino from 18 to 22 per week. Ms. Marino already works the full 22 hours, Building Inspector Robert Lester said, split between his department and the Planning Board. The move Monday just authorizes paying her (about $2,000 per year) for the extra time.

Please turn to Page 18

Berk. Courier 7.19.90 Pg. 1

Lee

Courier 7.19.90

Continued from Page 1

It also makes her eligible for town-paid insurance, assistant Town Treasurer Pat Carlino said;

— Decided to try to mediate a dispute between Department of Public Works head Joseph Castronova and James and Donna Toomey of Cliftwood Avenue. The Toomeys claim Mr. Castronova exceeded his authority when he blocked a building permit previously approved by town counsel for a house in the Mandalay Road development.

— Agreed to again look into allegations that there is too much noise at Vallerie Transportation Services on Marble Street. Abutters claim the problem is getting worse, not better.

Lee board going ahead with housing

Eagle 7.19.90 Pg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Following a June 29 decision in Superior Court in its favor, the Lee Housing Authority has voted to proceed with a plan to build 16 units of public housing on Marble Street.

The decision unraveled a legal tangle that has been woven around the $2 million housing project over the past two years.

The project calls for the construction of eight duplexes on Marble Street. The duplexes will house 15 families of modest means and one handicapped resident.

Housing needed, judge ruled

The legal wrangling began about two years ago, when the Lee Housing Authority approved the project and filed for a comprehensive permit. But the town's Zoning Board of Appeals, the permit-granting authority in this case, denied the plan. The ZBA cited a town moratorium on new construction, drainage problems and the proximity of the building site to a quarry in its denial of the project.

The Housing Authority appealed that decision to the state Housing Appeals Committee, which reversed the ZBA's decision last December. The Selectmen promptly appealed the Housing Appeals ruling to Superior Court.

In upholding the Housing Appeals ruling, Judge William Simonds ruled the town's need for low-income housing superseded the moratorium. He added that a state-funded $168,000 drainage system would resolve the drainage problem and that the proximity to the quarry should not block the project.

LEE, continued on B4

Lee housing

■ LEE, from B1 Eagle 7.19.90

Lee Housing Authority Chairman Francis Foley said after Tuesday's meeting that the plans need to be updated to conform with state building codes passed since the project was first proposed. But, Foley said, the Housing Authority is proceeding under the belief that the project is cleared to begin.

The Selectmen have 30 days, or until July 29, to appeal the Superior Court ruling.

Daniel R. Tuchscherer, executive director of the Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority, said he plans to attend a Selectmen's meeting in the next few weeks to discuss the project. He added that if the board does not oppose it, he would ask the board if the town plans to apply for the $168,000 grant from the state Executive Office of Communities and Development. That grant would fund a storm drainage system.

If the town does not apply for the grant, Tuchscherer said, the drainage problem will be solved by installing retention basins. But Tuchscherer said the money is available to Lee and if it is not applied for, EOCD will earmark it for another community.

About $130,000 has already been spent on the project.

Eagle 7.20.90 OSHA called 'out of line' Pg. A6

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

I reply to the July 13 Eagle article regarding OSHA safety violations at the Mead Specialty Paper Division. I am a four-year associate of that division, and a 10-year employee of another Mead division. However, the views I am about to express are my own and in no way reflect the official position of my employer.

I find OSHA's language and tone as appalling as the litany of violations it claims to have found at Mead. Typical of the bloated American bureaucratic machine, seemingly attempting to justify its very existence, OSHA has gone way out of bounds, provoking and attacking with inordinate fury, exceeding what is normal, proper or reasonable.

"Workers should not fear for their lives every time they enter their place of employment," said Ronald E. Morin, OSHA area director. Come on, Mead is not a 19th century sweatshop, victimizing a hoard of innocent children! Morin's melodramatic embroidery would be better utilized in a Hollywood screenplay than wasted in an OSHA press release.

What OSHA did not mention was Mead's safety record which exceeds the industry average. Nor did it mention Mead management's genuine concern for workers, demonstrated relentlessly in company philosophy and in day-to-day operations. No mention of a full-time, completely dedicated and highly qualified safety officer, nor an independent safety consultant who visits every other month. No mention of Mead's positive efforts to work *with* OSHA to uncover and abate unforeseen safety problems, while OSHA works *against* their cooperative charges with abusive, negative reinforcement tactics.

My past experience with safety-related issues incorporates a billet in the Naval Reserve as a safety engineering officer, and I have taught operations management at the State University of New York. I can say without hesitation that OSHA is completely out of line in its degree of criticism in this case.

RICHARD W. HESS

Lee

Mr. Hess is an account manager at Mead Specialty Paper division.

Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Tall order Eagle 7.18.90 Pg. B5

Ron Pepin of R&R Windows of Easthampton caulks around a new window frame at the Lee Central School. The company is replacing windows throughout the school.

Advocate 7-25-90 Pg. 2

walkabout

By Deidre Consolati

A CHANGE OF SPACE: At the rear in McClelland (always friendly) Drug Store – the hub of Lee – a new display of products for the infirm and elderly has been mounted. Its centerpiece is a fully equipped patient's bed, and supplies include sitz baths, canes and body braces. This prioritizing of the health needs of the community's most important members is yet another example of compassionate owner Fran Downing's sense of obligation to the local people. He deserves recognition and we appreciate him. (Of course, the 16-cent coffees and sodas he offers at the fountain don't hurt either!)

THE "OTHER" MAIN STREET: Running directly parallel to and one block west of Lee's Main Street is Railroad Street, a busy world of commercial life with a set of rules all its own. Bordered on one side by the Housatonic River and historically an area of trade, its blue-collar trade origins are apparent today as landscapers, painters, carpenters and other craftspeople load their daily supplies onto trucks at Lee Hardware at the corner, or from farther down the street at its busy anchor, Dresser Hull Building Supply. Two barrooms-cum-eateries, Erminio's and the Lee Men's Club (the name a holdover from the '50s), reside kitty-corner to each other, and together with Sullivan Station at the north end of the street, constitute the area's night life. Business here always bustles around 4 or 5 p.m., just after quitting time in the trades and at Lee's nearby mills.

This secondary street also serves as a bypass from the upper to the lower portion of town. A steady stream of cars combine with the commercial activity and barhopping to produce some interesting traffic snarls, and it is here that Railroad Street goes by its own set of rules. "Anarchy reigns supreme," in fact, says one local observer. Near Dresser Hull, the vortex of activity, many local drivers have described their reversion to urban-guerrilla tactics merely to pass the businesses. Dodging forklifts and stacks of plywood piled perilously close to the road, the local drivers manage somehow to arrive at the Sullivan Station end of Railroad Street, where sanity and safety seem to surface once more. A driver pulls onto Main Street (the traditional rules of the road still exist here) and marvels at the contrast in experience. The main architect of Dresser Hull's unkemptness and its resulting obstacle course seems to be the owner Dick Shields, a man who wisely lives far away from the clutter in an orderly Victorian home in another part of town.

VIGNETTES: Marble Street, the settling place for many immigrant Italians earlier in the century, may yet become the site for 15 units of low-income housing. The project was, sadly enough, vociferously opposed by the descendants of those early families, who struggled in the same way as those who are seeking a home there in 1990. Last week a higher court upheld a decision that will allow the special permit and the buildings to go through. This overrules the Lee Zoning Board of Appeals who sided with the Marble Street residents and voted against the project by a vote of 4-to-1 . . . The Lee-based Berkshire Opera Company, located in the Zabian Building across from the park on Main Street, is now in its sixth season and opened on Saturday night at Cranwell in Lenox with *The Abduction From the Seraglio*. This work was composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1782 and is sung in English. The colorful general director of the company, Rex Hearn, endeared himself to Lee seniors and other elderly throughout the county by inviting them (free) to the dress rehearsal on Thursday night . . . Highly visible, well-known, well-loved Lee Person of the Week: Fran Downing of McClelland Drug Store.

THE SEASON CALLED ESTIVAL: According to many nature-watchers, a Berkshire year has six subtle seasons rather than four, and we're completing the estival time of year. In the deep woods, vernal pools – long since dried – are ringed by the ghostly hoofprints of deer. (Were they searching for the spirit of spring or just a drink?) In the woods, too, the jack-in-the-pulpit persists, but jack has been replaced by rounded rows of potent, ripening green seeds. Near the Pinnacle, Lee's highest point, the goosefoot maple wears early-summer chartreuse, slowly transforming into loden green. In spirit, we Berkshire residents are colored by these changes and as the deer, we move in time and space through our own inner landscapes in search of vernal pools.

In the Marketplace

Mead to contest OSHA fine

LEE — Mead Corp. Specialty Paper Division plans to appeal a federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration finding that resulted in a fine of $30,280 for workplace safety violations.

Scott M. Hollander, manager of human resources, said yesterday that the company met with OSHA representatives Monday to discuss the citation issued earlier this month. Following the meeting the company decided to go forward with an appeal, he said.

"OSHA offered to reduce the fine but not its characterization of the violations as 'serious,' the term used in the citation," said Hollander. "We don't agree. We have addressed most of the issues that OSHA cited and not to contest would be unfair to the company and the employees."

Mead has turned the matter over to a Washington law firm that deals in OSHA cases, he said.

The case involved "63 serious workplace and other violations" such as unguarded hazards or failures to maintain protective equipment.

In an unrelated OSHA case, a spokesman for Crane & Co., a Dalton papermaking firm, said yesterday that the company plans to meet with OSHA in early August to discuss its citation before entering a formal appeal.

Crane was fined $156,400 in a case involving "excessive ergonomic stress in three departments." The action centered on injuries caused by jobs that require the hand or wrist to perform highly repetitive motions. The citation was for "52 instances of alleged willful violations."

SOLD! -- Bridget Gormalley was the top bidder for a $13 Batman bicycle at the Lee Youth Association's fifth-annual auction Saturday. The auction raised nearly $8,000 for the association. (Photo by Erik Bruun) Advocate 7-25-90 Pg. 3

Lee benefit event brings in $8,000

LEE — A steak dinner and auction sponsored by the Lee Youth Association and the Lee Kiwanis Club raised nearly $8,000, according to the organizers of the event.

The auction-dinner was held last Saturday at the Town Park. The funds will go toward renovation work on the town's community center and help pay for programs sponsored by the Lee Youth Association.

Auctioneer Louis Caropreso took the podium Saturday and put more than 200 items on the block, raising about $5,700. State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, served as the auctioneer for the junior auction, which offered items for sale to residents 16 years and younger.

The steak dinner, hosted by the Kiwanis, pulled in another $1,000. Cash donations on the afternoon totaled about $1,300.

Eagle 7-28-90 Pg. B5

Lee Courier 7-26-90 Pg. 8

Court Approves Housing

LEE — A $2 million low-income housing project on Marble Street, previously blocked by the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Selectmen, received court approval last week.

Superior Court Judge William Simons' ruling upheld a December, 1989, decision by the state's Housing Appeals Committee (HAC) which found that town officials denial of a comprehensive permit for the project was in error.

That denial was based on a 1987 moratorium on large construction projects due to a lack of sewage treatment system capacity, drainage problems and safety concerns about the proximity of the Marble Street site to a quarry.

The HAC found that the town's need for low-income housing superceded its sewage treatment concerns, that drainage could be taken care of by installing additional storm drains and that the existence of a quarry nearby was not a legitimate ground on which to base a permit denial.

Judge Simons found the HAC's decision to be based on "substantial evidence".

The Lee Housing Authority, which is financing construction of the eight duplexes which will house 15 low-income families and one handicapped resident, said it would apply immediately for a building permit.

Robert Birch to head Tri-Town Rotary

Eagle 7-27-9

LEE — Robert W. Birch was appointed president of the Tri-Town Rotary Club of Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge at a luncheon July 3. He succeeds David J. Bruce, who has served for the past year.

Birch, who joined the club in 1968, has served as treasurer and a director in addition to his work on fund-raisers. His term as president runs through June 1991.

He and his wife, Dolores, reside at Theresa Terrace. They have three grown children.

Retired from Kimberly-Clark Corp., Birch was product superintendent for long-fiber papers.

Revaluation finished in Lee

Eagle 8-1-90 Pg. B4

LEE — The town's Board of Assessors Monday night announced the completion of the town's mandatory three-year revaluation.

Information on the new property assessments will be available to residents during business hours, which are 9 to 4 at the Airoldi Building. The Assessors said the tax rate at this point is still unknown.

63

Firm urged to expedite classroom TV project

Eagle 7.28.90
Pg. B1

By Daniel Pearl
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Massachusetts Cable Television Commission is urging Century Berkshire Cable Corp. officials to hurry up and complete a project that would allow four high schools to share televised teachers.

The South Berkshire Educational Collaborative, which provides vocational education in four South Berkshire school systems, has already spent $60,000 in grant money on two-way television studios at the Lenox, Lee, Southern Berkshire Regional and Berkshire Hills Regional school systems, said Richard Labrie, executive director.

Labrie said the collaborative has been waiting for the last year for Century Berkshire to hook the schools to its old cable lines.

Wednesday, in response to a Great Barrington hearing last month in which subscribers aired complaints about Century, state cable commissioner Rosalind Niles met in Boston with officials of New Canaan, Conn.-based Century Communications Corp. and with state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee.

"We demanded an explanation and said we wanted it resolved," said William August, the commission's general counsel. August said the Century officials said they hadn't known about the project and promised quick action.

Cables are old

Philip B. Hopkins, Century Berkshire's new manager, said he met with Labrie July 5, and both sides are now trying to decide the best way to proceed.

"Those lines are available, but it's not a real black and white decision that this would be best way to go. The cables are old, and it would take a lot of work to get them into shape," he said. It might be cheaper for the collaborative to pay for new cables, he said.

Hopkins is the fourth manager in two years for the South Berkshire cable system, which covers Great Barrington, Stockbridge, Lenox and Lee. August said, "The school system maintains that at least three Century Berkshire general managers have renewed their commitment to this."

Labrie said hooking up the studios to two-way cable lines would allow a teacher to teach an advanced placement or language class from one school and have students participate from their own schools. Labrie said that means classes that don't attract enough students in any one school can still be offered, and some teachers who might lose their jobs because of class cancellations can remain.

The collaborative would pay Century for maintaining the cable lines.

Labrie said yesterday he is not sure yet if the system can be hooked up in time for the coming school year.

Niles raised two other issues with Century, August said. One was the lack of Boston news on the South Berkshire cable lineup. The other was Century's recent rate increase for basic service.

Hopkins said adding a Boston station would probably be difficult because of federal rules.

Lee Selectmen remain opposed to Marble St. affordable housing

Eagle 7.31.90
Pg. B4

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Backed by a host of irate Marble Street residents, the Selectmen reiterated their stand against a proposed plan by the Lee Housing Authority to construct 16 units of public housing on that street.

But as Selectmen Chairman Joseph F. DuPont noted, the town may not have a legal leg to stand on, since it last appeal of the decision was struck down in Superior Court on June 29.

At issue is a plan by the housing authority to develop 15 units of housing for residents of modest means and one unit designed for the handicapped on a site on Marble Street. The authority applied to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a comprehensive permit to do the work two years ago.

A comprehensive permit enables developers, either public or private, to eliminate the time and cost of appearing before several town boards for a special permit. In Lee's case, the developer appears before the zoning board and needs only that board's approval to go forward. The stipulation is that a percentage of the housing be in the affordable range.

In 1988, the ZBA turned down the housing authority's application, citing, among other things, the townwide moratorium on development. The authority appealed that decision to the state Housing Appeals Committee, which overturned the ruling.

The Selectmen got into the act a year later, appealing the second decision to Superior Court. Last month, Judge William W. Simonds ruled that the town's need for affordable housing superseded the moratorium and that the permit was valid.

Limited options

With this latest setback, DuPont acknowledged that the town's options are few. Although he filed an appeal last week before the 30-day appellate period expired, he said that gesture was merely to keep the town's options alive if his fellow selectmen decide to pursue another appeal.

DuPont said the board had not yet conferred with Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully but added that the only reason for continuing to appeal the decision was the moratorium. He added that if the town's contention was struck down in Superior Court, he was not sure what chance a similar tack would have with the state Appellate Court, the next highest court of appeal.

But Selectman William Bean said he was angry because the housing authority was seemingly ignoring the moratorium, which was, in his opinion, "still an issue."

Daniel Tuchscherer, director of the Berkshire County Regional Housing Authority, countered that the need for affordable housing was an even greater issue countywide.

"The need for housing subsidies is desperate," he said. "The waiting list is three years long."

Tuchscherer pointed out that while there are more than 300 units of housing for the elderly in South Berkshire County, there are no affordable units.

But this did not assuage abutters of the project, who urged the Selectmen to continue the fight. Several noted that the land was originally purchased for an elderly housing project. This latest use, they contended, was a significant change. Others seemed uncomfortable with the fact that the housing would draw tenants from outside Lee.

Tuchscherer acknowledged that the Marble Street property was originally targeted for the elderly but said the housing authority did not have to restrict the property to that use.

The board ultimately decided to conduct a hearing on the matter next week, with Scully in attendance.

In a related matter, the Selectmen voted to approve an application for a grant of $168,000 from the state Executive Office of Communities and Development to fund a sewer system to cope with drainage problems on the Marble Street site.

DuPont made it clear, however, that the town's approval of the grant did not indicate its approval of the housing project. Tuchscherer said he was was amenable to that condition.

Lee

Schools Linking By TV

Courier 8.2.90 Pg. 3

LEE — A cable TV hookup between four Southern Berkshire school systems, on hold for more than a year, probably won't be ready for classes this fall, South Berkshire Educational Collaborative officials learned last week.

Philip Hopkins, newly-named manager (and the fourth in two years) for Century Berkshire Cable, said that while lines are available to turn on two-way television between studios at Berkshire Hills, Lee, Lenox and Southern Berkshire Regional schools, "the cables are old and it would take a lot of work to bring them up to standard."

During a meeting in Boston between New Canaan, CT-based Century and state cable TV commission and Collaborative officials Mr. Hopkins said it might be cheaper in the long run for the schools to pay to install new lines since maintenance will be their responsibility.

The four schools already have spent some $60,000 in grant money to construct the studios, Collaborative executive director Richard Labrie said.

The hookup, in addition to permitting common simultaneous vocational instruction at the four campuses, would allow advanced placement instruction in courses which might not draw sufficient student interest at individual schools.

That, in turn, might save the jobs of some teachers who otherwise would be laid off as courses were cancelled due to lack of interest or of qualified students.

State cable commission attorney William August told Century officials the commission wanted the situation resolved quickly.

Lee board seen as marginal

Eagle 7.31.90 Pg. A6

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

I've been following with great interest the Lee Board of Public Works. The board is a seven member, non-paid, non-elected group costing Lee taxpayers dollars daily. The following items are some of my concerns:

— The board contracted lawn mowing services, at an expense of over $7,000, out to a third party (not a town resident). The town highway department has the facilities and the manpower to handle this job.

— The board, allegedly conscious of fiscal cutbacks, paid for police to patrol the town dump on at least one Saturday (overtime) to check stickers on vehicles. The people running the dump are capable of doing this.

— Members of the board recently spent an entire weekend uncovering garbage at the dump, to be sure nothing was illegally placed there, only to have the highway department called in on a Sunday (overtime) to rebury the garbage.

— The board has concerned itself with trivial items like coffee breaks and has inspected the highway department and caused unnecessary disruption.

— The board has recently decided to investigate the hiring of a union negotiator to negotiate the union contract with the highway department. Lee has paid town counsel to handle this type of matter and has always done so in the past.

Where is the praise for the excellent snow removal, early morning hours of sanding roads, repairing of water breaks and other good works done by the highway department?

One wonders why only one voice of our elected Selectmen is heard deploring the board's behavior and continual waste of tax dollars. The fact is that for many years, as well as now, the Lee highway workers have done a fine job with little recognition.

The board should be dismantled by the Selectmen, and control of the highway department returned to its proper chain of command, the highway superintendent.

JOHN W. HERBERT
Lee

Mead Appealing OSHA Fine

Courier 8.2.90 Pg. 14

LEE — Slapped with a $30,280 fine for workplace safety violations, Mead Specialty Paper Division is questioning a federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration finding.

Mead's Scott M. Hollander characterized the violations as being less than serious, according to a report in the daily press, and is going forward with an appeal.

Town To Appeal, Without Enthusiasm

Courier 8.2.90 Pg. 13

LEE — The town has appealed a court decision clearing the way for an affordable housing project on Marble Street, but it did so with little real enthusiasm.

Selectmen Chairman Joseph DuPont told angry abutters Monday that a plea to the Appellate Division, from the June 29 Superior Court finding, probably stood little chance of succeeding.

It was based, he said, on the town's general building moritorium and that, he noted, had been rejected by the trial court.

"I'm not sure what kind of chance that gives us," he said. The appeal, filed last week, merely kept the 30-day appeal period alive at this point, he said.

At issue is a $2 million proposal by the town's housing authority to construct 15 "affordable" housing units and one for a handicapped person on the site.

The Zoning Board of Appeals rejected the idea, citing the town-wide one-year ban on large developments because of a deficiency in the town's sewage treatment capacity.

The state's Housing Appeals Committee overturned the ZBA, however, and the court agreed, based on a state law that bars towns which lack an appropriate percentage of affordable housing units from using zoning regulations to avoid building them.

Abutters have urged the selectmen to pursue the case, citing among other reasons the fact that the land originally was purchased as a site for elderly housing. The use now proposed, they allege, is a

Lee board bows to demand to let MassPIRG canvass

Eagle 8.2.90 Pg. B1

LEE — In a terse letter Monday night, the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group informed the Selectmen that they could not prevent it from canvassing for funds, and it ordered the board to rescind a recent refusal to do so and to grant the dates the group had requested.

So the Selectmen did just that, giving MassPIRG permission to canvass on July 9-21 from 9 to 4.

The board had initially refused the group's request in June, citing what it termed MassPIRG's "aggressive approach" to door-to-door fund-raising. But Monday's letter from MassPIRG's legal branch informed the board, in language a little less pleasant than the initial letter, that the town had no right to stop the canvassing.

"I'm not sure I can see why they're asking if they know we can't stop them," said Chairman Joseph F. DuPont. But he noted that since the group did not request alternate dates, the point was moot as the dates requested had passed.

"But if they want them, they can have them," he noted wryly.

In other business, the Selectmen voted to request that Postmaster William Matthews attend a meeting to discuss a confusing street-numbering system that has apparently been initiated in Lee. Timothy O. Taylor told the board that the system was installed recently with no notice, forcing him to dispose of stationery with his old address on it.

Selectman William Bean also suggested that the board contact U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte, R-Pittsfield, for an explanation.

The Selectmen accepted with regret the resignation of Pauline E. Pollard from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Pollard, who has been a member of that board since 1962, cited family health problems as her reason for resigning.

The board heard from Maynard C. Clemons, head of the Lee Recycling Committee, who reported the town had saved $9,480 so far in its recycling efforts.

Finally, the board slated a meeting Aug. 21 at the Airoldi Building for all town boards to coordinate reappointments.

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Stephen Pierce, a candidate for governor, gets a pat on the cheek from Edith Mazzer of Pittsfield at Joe Diner's in Lee. Looking on are Tulio Montini of Lee, left, and diner owner Joseph Sorrentino.

Pierce pledges support for Glen

Eagle 8.1.90 Pg. B1

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Republican gubernatorial candidate Stephen Pierce of Westfield said yesterday that even if environmental impact reports on the proposed Greylock Glen project contain discouraging news, his support of the project would not waver and he would work to solve any environmental problems.

Pierce made his comments at Joe's Diner, one of several stops on a tour of the county that took him to North Adams, Adams, Lenox and Lee, where he visited the Specialty Paper Division of Mead Corp. and later introduced himself to the afternoon crowd at Joe's, a hub of local social activity.

"I would want to see the final results of the studies that are being done on the Greylock Glen and the economic feasibility studies on Mass MoCA, but I doubt that any significant environmental problems will be identified, and those that are can probably be managed ...

"Western Massachusetts, and Berkshire County in particular, need the infusion of assistance that those projects will bring," Pierce said.

The Greylock Glen project and Mass MoCA, the $77.5 million museum of contemporary art proposed for former Sprague Electric Co. buildings in North Adams, will help assure that the state's western region is no longer "left out" when state support and largesse are distributed, he said.

On Wednesday, William F. Weld of Cambridge, another GOP gubernatorial hopeful, called on Pierce to release his tax returns for 1980 through 1983 to prove that there are no irregularities in them. Pierce refused, saying that Weld was raising an "irrelevant" issue. Yesterday, he used slightly stronger terms.

"Bill Weld is a desperate candidate in search of an issue. He ought to keep looking ... I released five years of returns as every candidate was asked to do, and I answered every question."

Pierce did not file his tax returns on time from 1984 to 1988, and while he has released those returns, he has refused to release the older ones. However, a spokesman for Pierce has said that the older returns were reviewed by an accountant and found to be in order.

Weld has released his tax returns from 1980 to 1989.

Birch Heads Rotary Club

Courier 8.2.90 Pg. 3

LEE — Robert W. Birch, a member since 1968 of the Tri-Town Rotary Club of Lee, Lenox and Stockbridge, has been named president, succeeding David J. Bruce.

Mr. Birch is retired from Kimberly-Clark where he was a product supervisor. He has been treasurer and a director of the Tri-Town club as well as a member of the board of directors.

Mr. Birch's term will expire at the end of June, 1991.

Hodgkins stalling bill Lee filed

Eagle 8.7.90 Pg. B1

By Daniel Pearl
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, last night told angry Selectmen why the proposal for a town administrator has stalled in the state Legislature: because he doesn't like it.

Hodgkins chairs the House Committee on Local Affairs, which is scheduled to vote next month on the proposal passed at Lee's May 1989 town meeting. He said he wants Lee to have a town administrator but doesn't like the fact that Lee's proposal would turn four elected positions into appointed positions.

Hodgkins said his committee won't approve the bill unless the town does a complete review of its charter. The Selectmen wanted to know why Hodgkins didn't tell them that last November, when they sent the bill to his committee.

His response: "We have done everything in good faith. You can whine if you want about the issue, but I'm a guy who's the local representative, I'm a taxpayer, I showed up at the public hearing, and I wrote the grant [to study a town administrator]. I'm not going to sit back and say, 'This is what you voted for, so forget my feelings.' "

Even if the Legislature approved Lee's bill, the proposal would have to pass a general town vote before the town could hire an administrator.

Still, Hodgkins said his com-

LEE, continued on B2

Hodgkins delays administrator bill

Eagle 8.7.90

■ LEE, from B1

mittee is careful not to pass such legislation if there confusion or strong dissent among town residents.

He said townspeople have expressed concern about the proposal to him. And he said the voice vote by 46 town representatives during the 1989 town meeting wasn't specific enough about what the proposal would do.

The proposal was developed in one year by consultant David A. Booth of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

"He was paid to do the job and submit a report, and he did. We accepted the report," said Selectmen Chairman Joseph F. Dupont. "On one hand you say you're an advocate of home rule. On the other hand, here's something the representatives voted for."

Dupont had called Hodgkins in to ask why the Legislature had approved Becket's proposal for a town administrator but had not acted on Lee's.

Hodgkins said Becket's proposal was different because it didn't require a change in the town charter.

He said the proposal Booth drafted for Lee would give the town administrator broad powers that town representatives may not have been aware of. For example, the administrator would be able to make some town appointments without the Selectmen's approval, Hodgkins said.

Dupont said, "I was a town representative, and I knew what I was doing."

"Well, God bless you," Hodgkins replied.

Hodgkins said the town could withdraw the town administrator proposal and draft a milder one. But the Selectmen decided to first confer with the town representatives.

During the 1989 town meeting, roughly half of the representatives indicated they had not read more than two-thirds of Booth's report.

Still, Selectman William B. Bean said town representatives had copies of the report and knew that it would shorten the town's ballot by four positions.

Hearing that, Patricia J. Carlino, assistant town treasurer, shouted at Bean, "I asked that question at the public hearing. I asked that question and you told me no."

"Patti, You're concerned you might not be appointed," Bean shot back. He later said people discussed keeping the elected positions on the ballot, but nobody proposed a formal amendment.

Hodgkins said the exchange between Bean and Carlino showed why Lee's town administrator legislation should not go forward. He said he doesn't want the issue to divide the town.

Hodgkins also admitted that his dislike for Booth, who drafted a report for a committee reviewing the county charter, played a role. He said Booth's proposal didn't take into account Lee's specific needs.

Hodgkins said he missed a Nov. 1 deadline for filing the bill because he had to check back with town officials to see what type of town administrator the town wanted.

Bean said Hodgkins should have kept town officials informed about the bill's problems.

Eagle 8.5.90 Pg. B1

Hodgkins says gas price jumps involve more greed than need

LEE — Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, has called for an investigation of recent increases in gasoline prices in the state to see whether price gouging has played a role.

Hodgkins said yesterday that he had sent letters on Friday to the state attorney general and the secretary of consumer affairs asking for an immediate investigation. He said gas prices were expected to go up 6 cents last week because of a new state tax but instead jumped an average of 10 cents.

Yesterday, he said, an informal survey of four stations in Southern Berkshire revealed that another 6 cents has been added, ostensibly because of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Dealers, Hodgkins said, blame distributors and distributors blame refiners.

Last February, Hodgkins said, there was a dramatic jump in heating oil prices during the coldest weather of the winter. A drawn-out investigation, he said, revealed "what we all knew. The companies had been price gouging."

"We want not just talk," Hodgkins said, "but we've got to come up with penalties that will help us to achieve stabilization."

An important aspect, he said, is speed. He said that he had been at a number of events in Southern Berkshire and people were outraged at the price jumps.

"It's greed," Hodgkins said. "We want to make sure that we don't bear the brunt of events again."

Lee selectmen clash with their hometown rep.

South Advocate 8.8.90 Pg. 3

Lee selectmen and state Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, are at odds over how to adopt a town-administrator form of government for Lee.

While Lee selectmen accuse Hodgkins of deliberately stalling legislation to create a town-administrator position, Hodgkins says the town's proposal was sloppily done.

Hodgkins says he favors Lee hiring a town administrator, but as chairman of the state Local Affairs Committee he has not supported the proposal voted on at town meeting in May 1989. Hodgkins says the town's proposal had three fundamental problems. They were:

-- Town representatives voted on a brief and vaguely written article stating the town wanted a town-administrator form of government but did not formally act on a new charter. "You need specificity," Hodgkins said. "When we pass legislation about a tax we don't say 'Oh we know what tax; we read all about it in the newspaper.' "

-- The proposal calls for changing the Board of Health, treasurer, tax collector and town clerk from elected positions to appointed positions. Whenever a town wants to eliminate elected positions, Hodgkins said, it must go through a long and deliberate process, including electing a charter commission and voting at town election on shortening the ballot.

-- Town officials did not submit the proposed change to him until last Nov. 8, seven days after the filing deadline for legislation. Hodgkins says he filed a late bill and a public hearing was held on it and April. Local Affairs Committee members were dissatisfied with the request, he says, and the hearing was continued to September.

"I deal with 351 communities and when towns want to change their charter they take it seriously. You don't shorten the ballot on a whim," Hodgkins says.

But Lee selectmen say they are dissatisfied with Hodgkins for letting the special legislation sit in committee in Boston without informing the town.

Selectman William Bean told Hodgkins that Hodgkins' personal differences with consultant David Booth, who wrote the proposed changes for Lee, were standing in the way of the interests of the town.

Selectmen Chairman Joseph Dupont says town representatives were fully aware of what they were voting on when they approved a town- administrator form of government. Public hearings were held on the proposal, he says, and all representatives had a copy of the proposal .

If the legislation had problems, Dupont and Bean say, Hodgkins should have advised the town about the concerns before this week. Hodgkins says the problems were mentioned at the April hearing but he did not want to raise the issue of hiring a town administrator during the spring when the town was talking about laying off more than 20 teachers. Hodgkins told Bean he was living in "ignoramusville" if he thought it was a good idea to discuss hiring a town administrator at the same time the selectmen were talking about dismissing teachers.

Dupont says that his main interest is to hire a town administrator as soon as possible. Hodgkins says he will work with the town to hire a town administrator relatively quickly and he will send information on how to go through the charter-reform process to shorten the town ballot.

walkabout

By Deidre Consolati

WISH LIST FOR LEE . . . Changes in Lee's Main Street have been coming fast, as noted in previous columns. Here's a wish list of things we'd like to see in Lee's future and a look at someone else's suggestions:

In 1981 a landscape planner and designer named Bob MacIntosh was hired by the town via a state grant to prepare a program to revitalize downtown Lee. The resulting booklet, *Think Positive Lee* ,contained many thoughtful ideas on how to accomplish this goal. It was well-received.

But time has a way of diluting good advice. It appears that in the years following 1981, town officials either forgot or completely ignored his suggestions. *To whit:*

One MacIntosh idea included converting undeveloped space between the Lee post office and the Housatonic River into a park. This would be part of a riverside walkway for use by the elderly and other Lee residents. It would make a good recreation area, he concluded, because "severe limitations to development occur on this site because it is located entirely between the 100-year flood plain."

These eminently sensible words, however, got lost in the shuffle in the late 1980s as developers -- some greedy -- took advantage of the Reagan boom and beat a path to the Lee Planning Board's door. That august body not only didn't find the space too "severely limited" by the flood plain, they voted to allow it to become a blacktopped car wash, and the plan for a riverside walkway in that area was essentially kaput.

Another major recommendation by MacIntosh was the preservation of existing old buildings. In his words, "Lee has the potential to capitalize on the positive aspects of the past through the historic preservation of the beautiful architecture now present." But here again comes to mind the demolition of the old Sons of Italy building, formerly a showplace, on upper Main Street -- just three weeks ago. And again, too, this points up how tragically Lee's bylaws have failed to realize the monumentally (in every sense of the word) important objective of returning valuable old architecture.

In contrast, however, never has the skill of blacktopping been raised to greater heights than in recent years in Lee's downtown. There, in former years, Lee officials used beautiful native marble, granite and fine woods. At the town meeting of 1988, where a mutual vision for a parking lot at the post-office corner and Railroad Street was discussed, one farseeing official put it baldly. "So now," he said. "It'll be blacktopped all the way to the river."

A wish list for Lee would have to include a land trust. Sadly, Lee is one of the few towns in south Berkshire not to have organized such a private land-preservation group. These are dedicated to preserving remaining open spaces within a town's borders. A recent ad in the *Lee Pennysaver* should be enough impetus for anyone: 125 acres of pristine land on Stockbridge Road, one of Lee's remaining undeveloped tracts, were being offered as building lots.

A countywide group called the Berkshire County Land Trust Alliance has been formed by George S. Wislocki of the Berkshire Natural Resources Council in Pittsfield, and trusts from seven towns in Berkshire County belong to the group. Last November, the Lee selectmen advertised for a person to represent Lee in such an organization and no one answered the ad. Now is the time for that person to step forward and call the town secretary at 243-2100 and Wislocki at 499-0596.

Last and not to be forgotten in any mention of goals for the town would be that major environmental objective: a weed-free Laurel Lake.

SPEAKING OF THAT: Much gratitude from everyone in town for the Lee selectmen's quick authorization of weed removal at Sandy Beach in response to the safety concerns of townspeople . . . highly visible, well-known, well-loved Lee Person of the week: Selectwoman Diane Roosa, who in May courageously decided to seek re-election and offer three more years of her judicial wisdom and humor.

VIGNETTE: Earlier in the week a cold front moved in to end 12 days of the finest Berkshire summer weather in recent memory. These are to be treasurured as jewels on a chain and removed from the soul in midwinter to be touched and polished by memory again and again . . . Now is the time to escape to the deep woods to hear one last time the wood thrush's notes before that bird's song ends and molting time begins. Wishing you harmony in your own life and peace with your neighbor.

Officials of Lee, Stockbridge tangling with problem of harvesting lake weeds

By Daniel Pearl
Berkshire Eagle Staff

Elected officials in Lee and Stockbridge are still tangling with lake weeds.

In Stockbridge on Monday, they decided to spend more money on the problem, while in Lee they questioned whether they were spending too much.

Lee Selectman William B. Bean grilled Deidre M. Consolati, chairman of the town's Sandy Beach Committee, on her decision to spend $1,900 for a private contractor to rake Laurel Lake weeds. He said the town should be relying on the county's harvesting equipment, which costs less money.

Meanwhile, Stockbridge Selectmen, who have been grilled this summer by Stockbridge Bowl residents unhappy about the weed problem, responded by pledging to run the town weed harvester for longer hours during the week.

Worse than usual

Lake weeds are a perennial problem in the Berkshires. This year, it has had special urgency because the weeds are worse than usual, and because of two drownings in Laurel Lake that may have been caused by weeds near the surface.

Jerry Smith, a rescue diver who owns Aquatic Adventures in Pittsfield, explained yesterday, "Weeds don't pull you down, they just stop you from moving your feet." If a swimmer can't tread water with his hands, that can result in a drowning. Also, Smith said, weeds make it difficult for rescuers to find a submerged swimmer.

Lee Selectmen had approved $400 in emergency funds to clear weeds from Sandy Beach. Consolati said she decided to employ a beach raker rather than a harvester, because a raker pulls the weeds from the roots instead of just chopping them.

She said the beach committee used money from other town accounts and still has $500 left this year to combat weeds.

But Bean said Consolati shouldn't have spent $75 per hour on the private weed raker — Del P. Virgilio Contractors of Pittsfield — when the county's equipment could do the same job for $23 per hour.

She said the county's weed harvester looks nice but doesn't do a thorough job.

There is another private harvesting service in the Berkshires, Berkshire Aquatic Harvesters, which has quoted a price of $18 per hour.

Recently revised state bidding rules require that a town officer make documented telephone calls to vendors before making a purchase between $1,000 and $10,000.

Consolati said yesterday, "I don't think we followed the rule because each cutting is usually under $1,000."

On Monday, Consolati proposed putting a $3,000 weed-removal budget before town meeting voters next sp

"Laurel Lake is turning into a swamp," she said.

Lenox spends $800 per year to rent the county's equipment.

Stockbridge voted last March to spend $15,000 this year for weed removal, but the Stockbridge Bowl Association has demanded that the town step up its harvesting, share responsibility for weed control with the association and drain the lake less during the summer.

Selectmen Chairman John A. Beacco Jr. said the Selectmen agreed to increase harvesting by paying town workers overtime during the week. He said the Selectmen denied the request to allow the association to make weed decisions and refused to let the lake water back up more because the water needs to keep flowing.

And after Monday's torrential rains, nobody is complaining about the level of the lake being too low, Beacco said.

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Tanglewood musicians entertaining children at the Lee Learning Center recently. (Photo by Erik Bruun)

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

David Loring with computer showing one of many types of maps he created for Lee.

Computer wizardry gives Lee versatile set of planning maps

Eagle 8.10.90 Pg. C1

By Daniel Pearl
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — David Loring has the entire town of Lee stored on a floppy disk.

As part of a mapping project his firm, Accord Engineering of Tyringham, completed for the town's planning board, Loring entered every road, sewer line, water line, wetland and stream into Accord's computer-aided design system.

Now, by clicking a mouse, he can zoom into any part of town, to six levels of magnification. He can print off any combination of overlays that describe the town's zoning, infrastructure and geography.

Lee's new overlay maps, which cost $6,500 to develop and were presented to the town this week, won a third-place prize in a national competition by Versa-CAD, the Huntington Beach, Calif., company that sells the software used by Loring.

It is the first time a computer-aided design system has been used for town planning maps in Berkshire County, although Loring said the technique is becoming widely used elsewhere.

Accord, a 5-year-old company started by Robert G. Brown, developed the idea with town planners and the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission.

Loring, a West Springfield resident who has worked for Accord for four years, took an assortment of existing town maps, all hand-drawn to different scales, and fed them into his computer by using a special electronic tracer. Once the information was stored, he had to jockey the lines in the computer to make sure everything matched up.

The full-color transparent maps — designed to be hung in three stacks — were completed last year. Town planners, assisted by Dalton Picture Framing and Aurora Glass, found a way to hang them so they stay perfectly aligned and a way to protect them from smudging.

Sallie E. Kish, a Lee Planning Board member, said the new maps, hung Monday, will allow the town to make updates easily.

The board is already working on one change: a new light industrial zone. Robert W. Birch, Planning Board chairman, said the board hopes to bring the proposal to voters by the end of the year.

Loring said some large communities are purchasing the whole computer system, so that a developer or town planner who wants to investigate a particular part of town can do so at a computer screen. These systems also remind officials when maintenance tasks should be performed. The problem is that the hardware costs about $20,000, according to Loring.

Kish said her hope is to get enough money for a topographical map.

Hiker Douglas Wilcox and Bishop Andrew F. Wissemann.

Eagle 8.11.90 Pg. B3

Hiker making rounds of Episcopal churches

Douglas Wilcox of Lee, a hiker who is traveling by foot to every Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, is expected to reach Berkshire County on Aug. 25.

On that day, a Saturday, he will attend a 5:30 p.m. service at St. Paul's Church in Otis.

The next day he will go to Grace Church in Dalton in time for 10 a.m. Sunday Holy Eucharist.

Wilcox is making a 650-mile, 40-day Prayer Walk through the diocese, which stretches from Worcester to the New York border. There are 69 churches in all. He began his walk July 25.

The walk, according to Bishop Andrew F. Wissemann, head of the diocese, is intended to raise the awareness the diocese to the Decade of Evangelism and to help build a sense of unity.

The walk is sponsored by the bishop, the Diocesan Council and the Evangelism Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

An experienced hiker, Wilcox walked the 2,100-mile length of the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine in four months in 1987.

The rest of Wilcox's schedule as he walks through the North Berkshire Deanery is as follows:

Aug. 27, Dalton to St. Mark's Church in Adams for noonday prayer and lunch; St. John's in North Adams for Evening Prayer at 5:30 and supper hosted by the women of the parish; Aug. 28, St. Andrew's Church, Blackinton, noonday prayer and lunch; St. John's, Williamstown, Evening Prayer at 5:30 and supper; Aug. 29, Lanesboro, St. Luke's Church, where he will be met by the Rev. Diane Root, vicar, and the dean of the North Berkshire Deanery, and continuing to St. Martin's Church, Pittsfield, at 5:30.

And on Aug. 30, Wilcox will walk to St. Stephen's Church in Pittsfield for noonday prayer and lunch, and then leave the deanery to walk to St. Helena's Chapel in Lenox.

Wilcox will continue in South Berkshire as follows:

Aug. 31, noon service at Trinity Church, Lenox, and 5:30 p.m. service at St. George's, Lee; Sept. 1, noon service at Church of the Good Shepherd, South Lee, and 5:30 p.m. service at St. Paul's Stockbridge; Sept. 2, 10:30 a.m. Sunday service at St. James' Church, Great Barrington, and 5:30 p.m. service, Christ Church, Sheffield.

On Sunday, Sept. 9, a "gathering celebration" of the walk will be held at the diocese's Bement Camp and Conference Center in Charlton, starting with a picnic at 3. All parishes and missions of the diocese are invited to participate.

Consolati rapped for pricey lake weed harvest

So. Advocate 8.8.90 Pg. 14

Lee selectmen chastised Deidre M. Consolati, chairman of the Sandy Beach Committee, Monday for spending almost $2,000 to deweed a portion of Laurel Lake. Although the selectmen said they authorized Consolati – who is a columnist for the SOUTH ADVOCATE – to do additional harvesting of weeds in the lake, they thought she would spend only $400 to lease a county harvester. Instead, Consolati hired a private company to rake weeds from the lake. Consolati said that even though it was more expensive to rake instead of to cut weeds, raking is a much more effective way to get rid of weeds because it pulls the weeds out roots and all. She said the weeds were a safety concern at the beach because children were getting tangled in them.

So. Advocate 8.8.90

Lee ZBA approves scaled-down project

Pg. 4

The Lee Zoning Board of Appeals took advantage last week of the rare opportunity to approve a project that calls for less development rather than more.

The board approved a variance for Berkshire Community Development Trust to build a 1,300-foot-long common driveway to serve five building lots off East Street. The variance was granted on the condition that the trust get Planning Board approval for five proposed lots on the 73-acre property.

The Planning Board approved three years ago a 21-lot Wellspring Woods subdivision on the same property. The project, however, was never built. The developer, Jean Davis, died, and her heirs decided to scale down the size of the project to preserve the open space at the land.

Leak-fixing firm gone, new company starts up

Eagle 8.12.90 Bg.1

By Holly A. Taylor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

Basement Waterproofing Nationwide Inc. of Lee, with 56 complaints against its name in the state attorney general's office, has shut its doors, but a new firm seems to be selling the same service from the same office with some of the same faces.

The complaints were filed against the original company, operated by Charles S. Jansky and his son, Richard. According to the attorney general's office, the consumers involved paid out a total of $100,000 and claimed they didn't get the dry basements they were promised.

The telephone number for Basement Waterproofing has been disconnected. But a new company called Greylock Services is reportedly operating out of the same sites – an office on Marble Street in Lee and a garage on Crystal Street in Lenox Dale. The landlords of both properties confirmed that Basement Waterproofing was still their tenant.

Upon calling Greylock Services, a reporter was told that Basement Waterproofing is no longer operating and Richard Jansky is the sole stockholder and officer of Greylock Services.

According to the secretary of state's corporate listings, Jansky's father, Charles Jansky, was listed as the treasurer of Basement Waterproofing and the treasurer of Greylock Services, formed in 1987. Alfred Medeiros is listed as president of Basement Waterproofing and clerk of Greylock Services, while Richard Jansky is listed as president of Greylock.

Yet the person who answered Greylock Services' telephone, who refused to identify himself, said those listings must be outdated because Charles Jansky has no connection with Greylock Services. Medeiros, he said, resigned and Richard Jansky became the sole officer Dec. 31.

Frustrated homeowners say they are giving up hope of having a dry basement.

Asked if Greylock Services was using the same offices and equipment that belonged to Basement Waterproofing, the spokesman said, "That's basically all I have to say."

At the Lenox assessors' office, several trucks and cars remain registered to Basement Waterproofing at its Crystal Street address. In addition, advertising for Greylock Services gives a Crystal Street address, as does the secretary of state's listing. The firm has two phone numbers, one in Lenox and one in Lee.

The Greylock Services advertisements in the weekly Pennysaver say: "Damp-Wet Basement Problems? Call the Professionals. Waterproofing specialists that have the answer to solve all water-leakage problems. No expensive outside excavation. Call today for FREE survey."

Basement Waterproofing has been under investigation by the office of Attorney General James M. Shannon for months. There were 20 complaints filed by February, some dating back two years. Following an Eagle story on the business in February, another 36 complaints were filed.

CELLARS, continued on B6

Attorney general has 56 complaints

Eagle 8.12.90

■ **CELLARS, from A1**

"We met with the company this spring and tried to get the money back, but the talks broke down," said Stephen A. Jonas, deputy attorney general. "In June, our local office told us that Basement Waterproofing had closed its doors and a new company may or may not be taking its place."

The firm used a clay-injection method of waterproofing that is sharply criticized by consumer reports, engineers and other state governments. It appeals to homeowners because it involves no excavation and costs less money than the more traditional methods.

Consumers interviewed by The Eagle said the advertisements and contracts led them to believe they would have a dry basement after spending anywhere from $1,200 to more than $6,000.

The attorney general's office is trying to solve three puzzles: Is there a connection between Basement Waterproofing and Greylock Services? What are the assets of Greylock Services? And, what is the obligation of Basement Waterproofing to its franchises, now scattered around the East Coast?

"We are preparing to take action to get money for the customers from the successor organization," said Jonas. "The focus of our investigation is to see if there is a link sufficient to take action against the new company and to find out the extent of the assets of the new company."

Asked if that means court action, Jonas refused to say, adding, "We attempted to talk to them before and it didn't work."

Franchise problems

Some of the franchises are having trouble, too. The Basement Waterproofing Nationwide of Southeast Massachusetts Inc. filed for bankruptcy in June, Jonas said.

And, Jane L. Grimes, a consumer protection specialist for the North Carolina attorney general's office, said Basement Waterproofing Nationwide of North Carolina Inc., formed March 20, 1987, is the subject of 10 formal complaints stemming from 1989.

"On the contract, the other offices are listed at the top, including those in New York and Massachusetts. We called, but some of the numbers were disconnected," said Grimes. "It [the contract] gave me the impression that it was indeed nationwide. The question is whether the Lee office is responsible for the franchises."

While the investigations continue, frustrated homeowners who complained about Basement Waterproofing's work say they are giving up any hope of having a dry basement or getting their money back. Donna Blair of Clarksburg, who spent $2,125 on her basement, said she never heard from Basement Waterproofing again.

Theresa Layden of Pittsfield, who paid Basement Waterproofing $4,800 that she borrowed from the GE Credit Union, said the firm had not returned to her house. When she called Greylock Services, she said she got an answering machine with a message and voice very similar to what she remembers hearing when she talked with Basement Waterproofing.

Competitor critical

The Better Business Bureau of Springfield, which listed Basement Waterproofing as a member in good standing last February, issued a prepared statement to inquirers this week saying that the firm was being "monitored to see if it meets our standards."

A competitor, John G. Chapin, who runs the B-Dry Systems Inc. in Lexington, criticized the Better Business Bureau and the attorney general for failing to take action. Chapin said his firm uses the accepted, but more costly, waterproofing methods that include installing gutters, landscaping or excavating.

"They just switched over and changed their shirts and ties," said Chapin of Basement Waterproofing. "They change the name and their skirts are clean and they are free of responsibility."

Water in cellar

With the flooding this past week, Pittsfield homeowner Joseph Stracuzzi had 3 inches of water in his cellar, which he paid Basement Waterproofing $1,463 to fix.

Calling the attorney general's office, Stracuzzi said he was told a month ago that nothing was happening and "Things had slowed down."

"Well, we accomplished something if they're out of business," said Stracuzzi of his complaint. "But if they're operating under a new name, then it was all for naught."

Breast cancer support group being formed

Eagle 8.11.90 Bg.B2

By Holly A. Taylor
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A Lee woman is trying to organize a breast cancer support group that will provide information to women who have just learned that they have breast cancer.

Sallie K. Kish said women face many difficult decisions upon learning they have breast cancer and need more information as well as emotional support.

"We want to reach women the moment they find the lump or someone says the mammogram doesn't look good," said Kish. "There's a need to be informed because it's our body, our breasts and our decisions."

Kish is working with several other women in the county to start a chapter of Y-Me, a national breast cancer support group that was started 12 years ago and has six chapters.

The purpose, she stressed, is not to provide advice or circumvent doctors, but rather to educate women so they can ask their doctors the right questions and understand the various procedures.

The activities would include distributing pamphlets and information, providing support from other breast cancer patients and holding monthly meetings, Kish said. She would also like the group to work to encourage more women to have regular mammograms.

Kish, 55, was diagnosed this spring with breast cancer in its earliest stage; that is, still confined inside the ducts of the breast. Told she had microcalcification in her breast, Kish said, the term meant nothing to her.

Since her mother had had a radical mastectomy, Kish promised herself that she would never have one, but she did undergo a modified radical mastectomy this spring.

Besides surgery, chemotherapy is now being used earlier in breast cancer with the hope of preventing a recurrence.

"There are things a woman can decide, but she needs to be fully informed. If she's informed, and she wants her doctor to decide, that's fine, too," said Kish.

Through the Y-Me network, breast cancer patients can receive a lot of information and call a 24-hour hot line. Kish is seeking local doctors and nurses to advise the group as well as breast cancer patients who want to help other women.

Interested persons may contact Kish at the Black Swan Inn in Lee.

Opera and Lee make for good mix

South Advocate 8.15.90 Pg. 1

Rex Hearn removes elitism of opera, develops new audiences

By Erik Bruun

One does not normally picture an opera director knocking down fences. But that is what Rex Hearn is doing as head of the Berkshire Opera Company.

After six seasons, the Lee-based opera company is breaking down barriers that traditionally have kept opera exclusively attractive to the culturally elite.

"I go every year," says Joseph Sorrentino, owner of Joe's Diner in Lee. "I usually like going to something more like a football game, but the opera's fun. It's a night out. You get to do something you might not do."

Sorrentino, like several other residents, says he had never been to the opera before Hearn started the company.

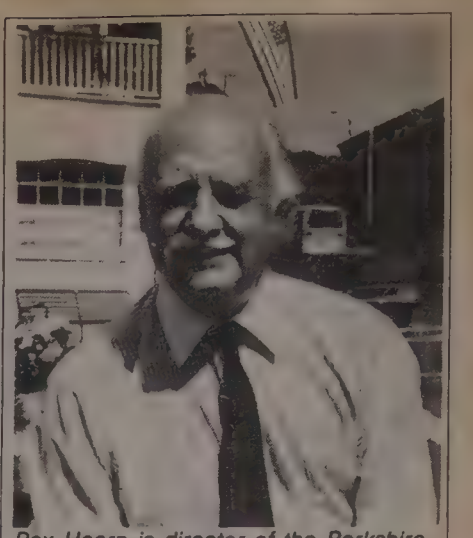
At first glance, Hearn would seem to be the last person to bring the opera to the people. Nattily dressed, Hearn has a high British accent and a lengthy resume that includes being an international correspondent for *The Manchester Guardian*. But Hearn says one of his goals when he started the company six years ago was to broaden the audience for opera.

All Berkshire Opera Company performances are sung in English.

"Why does an opera have to be sung in German? It doesn't make any difference if it's in English. I suffered through so many operas as a young man where people were laughing and I didn't understand it," Hearn says.

Hearn says he makes a point of trying to get locals to attend the opera, although at times he admits it can be a struggle convincing someone that the opera might actually be enjoyable. This year he invited senior centers to watch the dress rehearsal for Mozart's "*The Abduction from the Seraglio*" at Cranwell Resort. Eleven Berkshire towns sent 10 elderly residents each to watch the performance. The company's six-show season -- which received excellent reviews -- ended earlier this month.

Continued on page 10



Rex Hearn is director of the Berkshire Opera Company based in Lee.

Rex Hearn brings opera to the people

So. Advocate 8.15.90

Continued from page 1

"There's nothing that gives me more pleasure than having somebody come up to me after an opera and say, 'Mr. Hearn, that was the first time I've been to the opera and I loved it. And I understood it.' "

"We had to let go an Italian singer last year because we couldn't understand his English. We wanted people to understand what he was singing," says Dr. Laurence Cohen, chairman of the company's board of directors.

But the company's successes have not come without a price. Financially, the company has had a rocky history. Hearn says the company has a debt load of about $60,000, and Cohen says it has been difficult at times to appease all creditors. The company has a history of board members leaving because of the financial difficulties. Cohen, however, says that this year Barbara McCullough has closely monitored expenses allowing Hearn to concentrate on the opera and fund raising.

"Sometimes when there's no hope and I think we should all take suicide pills Rex comes up with somebody willing to give money," Cohen says.

Hearn says one of the reasons for being able to keep the opera afloat, even with the difficulties, has been the broad-base and local appeal of the company.

"It's been a struggle but this has been our turnaround year," Hearn says. "From now on, we're going to go from strength to strength."

Hearn says the company ran a $4,000 surplus this year, giving it an operating budget in the black for the first time in years. He says the money will be used to help pay off some of the company's debts. The company's operating budget was $142,000.

Hearn and Cohen say the company is strong enough now that they do not have to worry about closing shop. In fact, Hearn talks about raising money for an opera house that could be used for other purposes as well.

And although one does not normally associate high culture with Lee, which has traditionally been thought of us as more blue-collar town than its neighbors, Hearn says he has been very happy with his Main Street Lee office. The community, he says, has been very supportive and many Lee residents have performed minor roles in the operas.

"There are quite a few people who are really big supporters of the opera," says Selectman William Bean. "A lot of communities are getting exposure to the cultural activities and we've been overlooked. But Mr. Hearn has brought Lee the exposure that we normally don't get."

"Stockbridge and Lenox have had the snob cultural value for years," Hearn says. "It's time to put Lee on the map."

Lee board drops bid to stop housing plan

Eagle 8.14.90 Pg. B5

By Daniel Pearl
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The Selectmen last night voted 2-1 to drop their legal challenge of the town Housing Authority's plan for 16 units of public housing on Marble Street.

But the board voted unanimously, in an unrelated issue, to sue the town Zoning Board of Appeals for approving a five-lot subdivision on East Street Aug. 2.

In the Marble Street case, after a closed-door meeting with Town Counsel Jerome Scully, Selectmen Diana P. Roosa and Joseph F. DuPont said the town has little chance of winning.

The town would have to convince the state Appellate Court that the state Housing Appeals Committee was wrong to overrule the Zoning Board of Appeals, which in 1988 rejected the affordable housing plan.

"It's a difficult road to hoe," Scully said after the meeting. The Selectmen, like the Zoning Board, had cited a townwide moratorium on new sewer hookups. But Berkshire Superior Court Judge William W. Simons ruled June 29 that the town's need for affordable housing was more important than the development moratorium.

Selectman William D. Bean last night voted to continue the appeal.

"When that land was purchased it was for the purpose of having housing for the elderly," he said. He said the moratorium is a "valid concern" and said the town could lose the support of the state Department of Environmental Protection by not pursuing the appeal.

Francis J. Foley, chairman of the Housing Authority, said last night he is pleased the Selectmen decided not to pursue the appeal. "We badly need family housing," he said.

The state-funded plan, which has an estimated cost of $2 million, would include 15 units of housing for low-income families and one unit designed for the handicapped.

Foley said some architectural changes must be made — including putting a fence between the duplex apartments and the Lee Marble quarry — and construction could begin by the end of the year.

In the Marble Street matter, the Housing Authority had sought a comprehensive permit from the Zoning Board.

In the East Street matter, BCD Trust applied for a variance from the Zoning Board to develop the Davis family land near the intersection with Maple Street.

The Zoning Board granted BCD Trust a variance from a requirement passed at the last town meeting: that common driveways can only be 750 feet long and can serve two lots at most.

The East Street proposal calls for a 1,300 foot driveway serving five lots, said Planning Board member Gordon Bailey.

Bailey said the Zoning Board exceeded its authority because it never established that the driveway requirement placed a hardship on the landowner.

Bailey said the Planning Board was considering a legal challenge, along with other town officials, although planning board member Sallie E. Kish said the board is trying to keep a "balanced perspective" because the developer could have placed 21 3-acre lots on the land rather than five.

But Selectman DuPont said the Zoning Board doesn't have the authority to grant a variance because of open space concerns. He said he doesn't like town boards to sue other town boards, but "the laws haven't been complied with. That's a quarter-mile driveway serving five homes. There are serious safety considerations here."

He, Roosa and Bean all agreed to appeal the Zoning Board's decision.

George Frulla, Zoning Board chairman, had no reaction to the decision when contacted last night.

Lee police do the right thing: The Lee Police Association and Lee selectmen signed a three-year contract this week that keeps salaries level for the duration of the contract. Selectman William Bean thanked the police for their cooperation with the town in coping with its financial problems. Association representative Joseph Buffis said the police decided to ask for more beneiftis instead of salary increases because of the town's budget problems. The new contract calls for increasing hourly pay for outside jobs -- which are not paid for by the town normally -- by police. The town will also now reimburse police up to $300 for physical fitness programs. The base pay for patrolman, according to the contract, ranges from $413.20 to $535.20 a week.

South Advocate 8.15.90 Pg. 9.

Eagle 8.15.90 Pg. B6

Hull raps Hodgkins over bill for Lee

GREAT BARRINGTON — Bruce Hull, Republican candidate for state representative from the 4th Berkshire District, says that Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, "scuttled" Lee's proposal for a town administrator.

"The elected town meeting representatives of Lee voted for the proposal for a town administrator and asked Hodgkins to file it routinely," Hull said in a prepared statement. "Instead of filing it as he should have, or even letting the Selectmen know of his objections, he instead took it upon himself to decide the issue and scuttled it in his committee. . . . [Hodgkins] shouldn't use his legislative chairmanship to dictate to the town of Lee."

Hodgkins, who is vice chairman of the House Committee on Local Affairs, yesterday dismissed Hull's charges.

'A town administrator in Lee was my idea," he said. "I wrote the grant and personally applied for it. I was concerned about the depth of the town's proposal insofar as it shortened the ballot. We could no longer elect our own town clerk, town treasurer or Board of Health. The consultant who studied the issue says in his report that before the town can go ahead and implement this, it must review its charter. It needs a charter commission. That's what stopped [the proposal] in our committee."

Hodgkins said that he kept Lee Selectmen informed of his views on the proposal, and he denied that he did not file the bill.

"I sent it to the Selectmen, who made some minor changes and sent it back to me. The deadline for filing bills was Nov. 1, and it got back to me in mid-November. I filed it anyway," he said.

Lee DPW hires negotiator

Despite objections from selectman Diane Roosa, the Lee Selectmen and Department of Public Works have agreed to hire a professional to negotiate for labor negotiations with the town highway crew. DPW board member and selectmen William Bean and Joseph Dupont said the $9,000 expense was justified as it could save the town money in the long run.

Not only could the negotiator keep salaries down, they said, but it could also avoid the costs of going into arbitration proceedings if negotiations reach an impasse. Roosa, however, opposed the expenditure saying the town's is financially strapped and has had to cutback on DPW positions. If there is an extra $9,000 available, she said, the money should be spent on improving DPW services.

South Advocate 8.15.90 Pg.4

Lee sets MassPIRG hours

The Lee Selectmen granted permission this week to the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group to canvas residents later this month for contributions. Earlier this summer the board refused a request from the group to solicit donations. The board, however, later learned that they had to give permission as MassPIRG is a non-profit advocacy group that relies on donations to support itself. Several cases have been tried on whether towns may prohibit similar groups from soliciting donations but the courts have upheld the practice as a form of freedom of expression. The selectmen imposed several conditions, however, including limiting the hour of solicitation from 4 to 8 p.m., having MassPIRG members wear photographed IDs and giving the police a list of homes they plan to visit. Further, the board required the group to review the list of residents who have asked not to be canvassed for contributions the list is kept at the police station.

Lee Selectmen go to court to against Lee ZBA

The Lee selectmen are appealing to Superior Court a variance granted to Berkshire Community Land Trust by the Lee Zoning Board of Appeals earlier this month. The ZBA approved a variance for a 1,300-foot-long common driveway to serve five lots off East Street. The Davis family requested the variance to downscale its already-approved 21-lot subdivision plan on the property.

Selectmen and other town officials are upset that the variance effectively allows the developer to skirt the subdivision control law. "It shoots our bylaw in the foot," Planning Board chairman Robert Birch says. The town approved the common driveway bylaw this spring. The Planning Board had been considering appealing the variance if the ZBA did not impose strict conditions on the width of the driveway, drainage and emergency safety precautions.

But selectmen chairman Joseph Dupont said the variance should not have been given. "There was no legal justification for granting a variance," he said Monday night. "Ten thousand conditions put on a variance won't change that. They've definitely exceeded their authority." Building inspector Robert Lester asked to be included in the lawsuit against the ZBA.

Lee selectmen drop appeal

After about two years of intra-town battles, the dispute over a 16-unit housing project at Marble Street ended this week when the selectmen voted 2-1 to drop its court case against the project. The Lee Housing Authority is sponsoring the development.

Superior Court Judge Williams W. Simons ruled in June that a state comprehensive permit for the development -- which neighbors vigorously oppose -- was valid. Although the selectmen filed an appeal of the case to the state Appellete Court, selectmen Diane Roosa and chairman Joseph Dupont voted last night to close the case. "We've hit a wall," Roosa said Monday night. "The town of Lee doesn't have a chance of winning."

Selectman William Bean voted to continue the fight. He said the town-owned Marble Street property in question was bought many years ago for elderly housing. The affordable housing project will not only disrupt the character of the neighborhood, he said, but it will also violate the town's moratorium on mulitfamily housing projects.

Slenderizers issued cease and desist from Lee S'men

Lee selectmen unanimously voted Monday to issue a cease and desist order against Slenderizers for its proposed move from downtown to Stockbridge Road. The selectmen said the business has yet to receive permits to relocate the business in a residential neighborhood. Slenderizers has gone to the Planning Board for a parking lot permit but selectmen said the business would need a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals as well.

Town To Sue Itself

Courier 8.16.90 Pg. 13

LEE — The town decided to sue itself Monday evening over one housing matter but dropped its appeal of a loss in a separate case involving its housing authority.

The suit the Selectmen decided to file will be against the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), which granted a waiver of the driveway length limitations under the town's sub-division regulations to BCD Trust, which wants to develop the former Davis property at Maple and East streets.

The Selectmen decided, however, to drop their appeal of a Superior Court decision in late June that the town's Housing Authority could construct 15 affordable housing units and one for the physically impaired on Marble Street in spite of a town-wide moratorium on large construction projects.

Town Counsel Jerome Scully apparently told the board during a closed-door meeting prior to the Selectmen's session that the town had little chance of winning the case, given the preference for such projects inherent in current state law.

Selectman William Bean, however, continued to support the appeal on the grounds that the land originally was purchased for construction of housing for the elderly.

The moratorium, approved by the voters in May, prohibits new sewer hookups for one year because of a capacity problem at the sewage treatment plant.

In the BCD case the ZBA waived the 750-foot limit on driveways for the proposed five-lot sub-division, noting that if it wanted BCD could have sub-divided the land into more than 20 three-acre parcels.

It approved a 1,300-foot driveway serving the five lots instead.

Selectman Joseph DuPont said, however, the ZBA did not have the authority to waive the limitation because of open space and safety (primarily fire protection) concerns.

All three Selectmen finally agreed to take the question to Superior Court.

Century Berkshire Cable Offering Upgrade Special

LEE — Century Berkshire Cable is offering free installation to new subscribers and free upgrades for premium services to existing subscribers who contribute $10 or more to Community Services, according to Philip B. Hopkins, manager.

Community Services is a non-profit organization which helps local people in time of need. Each year, more than 1,500 residents are served by the agency in such areas as emergency home provision, food pantry and energy assistance.

The cable program will run until Aug. 31 and is open to any Century customer or anyone who is eligible to become a Century customer in Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge or Great Barrington.

Breast Cancer Support Group Being Formed

Courier 8.16.90 Pg. 13

LEE — "My breast cancer was caught at its earliest stage because I had a regular mammogram this spring which showed microcalcifications," according to Sallie Kate Kish. "These are early indicators of cancer which my biopsy confirmed.

"I then had a mastectomy.

"Because of my experience of going through all the fears, questions, etc., with very little information and no support group to turn to, I've decided to form a breast cancer support group.

"My talks with various health care professionals and the few women I've met so far who have also experienced this lead me to believe there is a real need in this area for such a group, but also enough women to support an active breast cancer group."

The group's purpose would be:

— To make information available immediately to women who have found a lump, have a suspicious mammogram or have received a biopsy report showing cancer;

— To offer emotional support and encouragement from women "who've been there" (had cancer) to women when they are most scared, and have no information and are the least able to know how and where to get it.

— To help women become better informed about all aspects of breast cancer so that they can ask relevant questions of their doctors in order that they may make better informed decisions about what procedures and treatment they may want (including breast reconstructive surgery at the time of or following mastectomy);

— To provide open door support group meetings for women to share their concerns, experiences, questions and needs with women who are or have had similar experiences;

— To offer monthly meetings to the public and to health care professionals with speakers on topics of interest relating to breast cancer, treatment, prevention, etc.;

— And to educate women about the need to get regular mammograms in order to better detect breast cancer at its earliest and most curable stage.

Anyone interested in helping form or participate in a support group may phone Ms. Kish at Black Swan Inn, mornings, at 243-2700.

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Civil feuds in Lee government mar progress

Budget, personalities , lack of communication breed dissent

Advocate 8.22.1990. 4

By Erik Bruun

Lawsuits, accusations and charges of wrongdoing are becoming commonplace in the town offices at Lee. But unlike most town battles which normally involve the town vs. someone else, Lee officials have recently taken to fighting among themselves.

"We're not working together and I don't know what to do about it," says Lee Selectman Diane Roosa. "Nobody's accountable to anybody. It's like there's a power struggle going on."

In the last several months a litany of civil feuds has occurred between town officials and boards. Issues that have caused divisiveness include the following:

-- The Selectmen voted last week to file a lawsuit in Superior Court appealing a variance granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals earlier this month for Berkshire Community Development Trust. Building Inspector Robert Lester is also appealing the decision.

-- After almost two years of dispute, the Selectmen last week reluctantly voted 2-1 to drop its appeal of a low-income housing project at Marble Street sponsored by the Lee Housing Authority. In making the decision, board members said they still opposed the project but were dropping the case because they believed they could not win it.

-- The town's former highway-crew foreman has threatened to sue the town Department of Public Works for demoting him to a laborer, allegedly without cause. Further, the Selectmen and DPW board voted two weeks ago to hire a professional negotiator for negotiations with DPW employees.

-- State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, the Selectmen and Assistant Town Clerk Patricia D. Carlino exchanged sharp words three weeks ago over the status of legislation to change the town's charter.

To be sure, not every issue involves a fight. For example, the police association and Selectmen last week amicably agreed on a new three-year contract in which the police accepted the same pay. Police said they wanted to cooperate with the town in coping with its budgetary problems.

Nevertheless, town officials generally recognize that the fray has led to sharp divisiveness among themselves.

Budget problems

Selectman William Bean says budget problems can account for some of the poor morale. When problems occur, having insufficient money for salary increases and new equipment aggravates the situation.

"It seems like in the last year everything has taken a turn for the worse," Bean says. "The budget has a lot to do with it. When you have to make difficult decisions and unpopular choices because there isn't enough money around, that means the morale goes down. When morale goes down, productivity goes down and that means sometimes you have to get tough."

"People aren't convinced we don't have money," Selectmen's Chairman Joseph Dupont says, "but we're practically the only town that hasn't laid off any people.

Dupont, however, says the main problem is a lack of communication between town boards and officials. He says he has tried to deal with that by having boards exchange minutes of their meetings to keep each other informed about what they are doing.

All three selectmen say that hiring a good town administrator would go a long way in improving communication and professionalism in town government. With all the complicated regulations today, he says, volunteer, part-time officials cannot be expected to keep up with everything.

"We definitely need professional help or a mayor to bring some cohesiveness," Dupont says. "Without a central figure to take control there is chaos. There are a lot of people with different irons in the fire."

Dupont says he has tried to improve matters by calling for regular meetings between boards. Although an earlier effort was unsuccessful, the Selectmen scheduled a meeting for all boards Thursday to discuss how to make appointments. By selecting a specific topic to discuss, Dupont says he hopes to avoid turning the meeting into a "gripe session."

"I'm trying to be that person to get a little communication going, but until some of the basic personnel problems are corrected, it's going to continue," he says.

Several town officials, most of whom requested anonymity, say that perhaps the major problem is that some officials are going off in their own directions.

"We're having a lot of difficulty with personalities and special interests stirring things up," Dupont says, "There are some drastic things you could do to address it. It may come to that. I definitely think professional management would be a great help -- provided you can find the right person."

Big black bear in Lee is cause of excitement

By Dorothy W. Chapman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A large black bear that lumbered into town last evening created a flurry of excitement among residents when three police cruisers and officers from Lee and Lenox arrived to investigate.

Peter E. Cirutti of 48 Franklin St. said his German shepherd began barking in his yard at 8:54. When he went to investigate, he said, "I thought my eyes were playing tricks on me."

Cirutti estimated that the bear weighed about 500 pounds. He said he was 20 to 30 feet away from the bruin but managed to get his dog inside the house after the bear ran behind for a few steps.

The animal apparently turned off and ambled down High Street. It crossed High Street into a field and then disappeared into nearby woods.

Cirutti called police. The excitement drew a large audience of spectators including several children. Officer William Tierney said police were concerned that the bear might become aggressive.

Lenox police arrived in two cruisers.

Lenox chief David Berkel watched the action seated on the hood of his car with his wife and animal control officer Helmuth Scharf.

Environmental police were called but had not arrived by the time the crowd dispersed about 9:45 p.m.

Berkel said many bears have been spotted in Lenox since spring. He said they apparently come into town for food and sometimes people feed them, which makes it difficult to get rid of them.

The gathering of police officers, cruisers and onlookers had the appearance of a major crime scene, according to one spectator.

Hildy Armstrong of 208 Main St. became upset when she observed the number of police blocking the area. She called The Eagle and said, "They [the police] were running around trying to surround it with shotguns, it was ridiculous and stupid." Some people jeered the police and criticized them for not contacting the environmental police immediately and having the animal tranquilized. "They told us to leave and go home and lock our doors," Armstrong said.

Bears in Lee: Downtown Lee has apparently become the stomping ground of at least one large black bear which was spotted last week on Franklin Street. Police responded to a call about the bear, but the animal fled into the woods. Bear sightings have been increasing in south county.

Environmentalists say that the bear population has slowly increased over the years, and commercial and residential development has encroached on land over which bears normally roamed freely years ago. They add that black bears are not dangerous if they are left alone by humans.

Advocate 8.23.90 Pg. 4

Lee police forgo raise in new pact

By Daniel Pearl
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Lee's nine police officers have agreed to a new three-year contract that gives them more potential overtime pay but no salary increase.

Nobody's complaining, according to Officer Joseph Buffis, who negotiated the contract.

"The Selectmen asked all the town departments at the beginning of the year to level-fund their budgets," said Buffis. "The Police Association met and agreed that because of the town's fiscal problems we would forgo a pay raise."

He said the Police Association probably will seek to reopen the contract in a year for a possible pay raise.

Pay scale near top

Buffis said the pay scale — which ranges from $413.20 per week for a starting patrolman to $535 for a veteran of at least 10 years — is near the top for Berkshire County police departments.

The contract, signed Monday evening, adds or improves some benefits, including the following:

▲ Set schedules. Changes to the eight-hour, 20-minute shifts are allowed only after discussion with the Selectmen, the Police Association and the police chief.

▲ Overtime pay for work on Sundays.

▲ A $1-per-hour increase each year for private details, starting at $20 per hour this year.

▲ One new holiday: Easter.

▲ Assurances of compensation from people who call police officers as witnesses in civil suits.

▲ Expansion of the physical fitness program. Officers can now choose their own program, for $300 compensation, and special officers now get 25 percent compensation.

▲ A minimum hourly pay rate of $7.35 for special police officers, who also will get a $75 clothing allowance.

Buffis said the new overtime provisions probably will expand the overtime budget by 3 percent.

Negotiations with Selectmen for this contract began in January.

Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Michael Ford, 14, left, and Timothy Gaul, 26, both of South Lee, pose on the home-grown golf course.

In Lee, a golf course with one hole

Eagle 6.20.90 Pg. B1

By Rose Foley
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — More than one driver along Fairview Street in South Lee has been known to do a double take when riding by an overgrown 10-acre field toward the bottom of the street.

In the middle of the field, devoid of any weeds, is a 144-yard golf hole with a lone yellow flag marking the location of the cup.

Michael Ford, a 14-year-old aspiring golfer who lives next to the field, created the one-hole golf course using a riding mower and a little imagination.

Ford, whose father owns the field, said he started mowing the hole last year. He measured it out using a 25-foot tape measure.

"I just started from the cup and came right down," he said.

Ford and his lifelong friend, teacher and neighbor Timothy Gaul, 26, can be seen from time to time hitting 100 or so golf balls into the field and then collecting them.

He's like my little brother," said Gaul, who introduced Ford to golf when he let him use his clubs.

"Everything I do, he does," said Gaul, getting a smirk and mild protest from the 9th grader.

Ford got his own set of clubs for his 13th birthday last year.

Both said the hole is good practice for when they take their game to the Greenock Country Club on West Park Street, about 2 miles up the road, or to the Stockbridge course. Ford bought his first membership last year at Greenock, where he averages a score of about 55 for nine holes.

"That's a good score for someone his age," said Gaul, taking a break from ribbing his friend.

The busiest time for using the hole is May and June, when they hit balls from 6 to around 8:30 p.m., said Gaul, who is self-employed at T&T Painting. They use the hole sporadically throughout the rest of the summer.

They even have games, like seeing who can hit the ball closest to the pin and then chip it in in the least number of shots to a smaller pin they've set up. They bet 10 cents a shot.

Of course, recollects Ford, there was the time he hit Gaul's mother's new Dodge Shadow with an especially powerful drive.

"I hit the back of his mother's car. I put a dent right in the back of the hood," he said. That cost him $113.

Ford doesn't stop at mowing just the golf hole. He also mows a track for his motor bike (Gaul rides motor bikes, too) around the golf course and paths through the field, one of which goes to his grandmother's house.

It takes him about a half a day to finish all the mowing.

His parents seem to get a kick out of the arrangement.

"If he wants to mow it, he can," said his mother, Rose Ford, adding that it keeps him busy.

His father, Richard, who owns Ford's Auto Service just around the bend, will leave the golfing to his son.

"I hit [a golf ball] once. It went from about here to that basket," he said, nodding to a bucket of balls about 5 feet away.

Abutters of Chanterwood rap development plans

Eagle 6.22.90 Pg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — About a dozen abutters to the Chanterwood resort on Lower Goose Pond complained to the Selectmen on Monday night that owner Donald E. Campion is apparently trying to subdivide the property illegally.

Mary Piech of Springfield, who told the Selectmen she owns land abutting the resort, showed them a brochure advertising the 14 cottages on the property for sale as cooperative units. The prices ranged from $50,000 for one of the smaller cottages to $160,000 for a two-bedroom house, the brochure said.

Chanterwood is a resort complex on Lower Goose Pond consisting of an inn and restaurant and a number of cabins, which are rented out for about $150 a night. None of the cabins is on a town-owned road, as would be necessary to provide frontage for a subdivision.

In addition, Building Inspector Robert Lester said he believed that more extensive use of the cabins would tax the resort's septic system, which is already near capacity.

Selectmen Chairman Joseph DuPont told the abutters that cooperative apartments may not be in violation of Chanterwood's special permit, because they would not involve ownership of the land and thus not be a subdivision.

Still, DuPont said, he would like to check with Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully to see if "co-op cabins" are legal. He added that since the cabins would be not available to the users year-round, according to the brochure, a fairer way to describe them might be time-share units, which are not allowable.

The board also voted to send Campion a letter to determine if he had any more building plans, some of which might require a special permit, and to ask him to explain the co-op cabins.

In other business, the Selectmen:

► Voted 2-1 to allow the owners of the Cone Zone, a new ice cream store on Main Street, to erect an awning. However, they stipulated that the awning must be removable so the town can bring maintenance machinery onto the sidewalk if need be. Selectman William Bean, saying the town has had problems in the past with such awnings, voted against the motion.

► Agreed to place an article on the next special town meeting warrant calling for raising the fines for various zoning violations from $50 per violation per day to $300 per violation per day. Planner Gordon Bailey, whose board recommended the increases, said $50 was no longer a painful fine for some developers, many of whom could afford to pay such a sum rather than alter their plans.

► Heard a report from the Assessors that the tax rate could be set as early as the end of the week. Assessor Edward M. Briggs said mailing of tax bills could begin in a few weeks.

Advocate 8.22.90 Pg. 28

Chanterwood sells cabins

Lee selectmen are looking into the legality of Chanterwood Pond. Although zoning regulations cannot regulate ownership of property, selectmen questioned whether the business -- circumventing the permit process.

About 10 neighbors of the resort descended on the selectmen Monday, saying that the resort is distributing pamphlets advertising the sale of 14 cottages ranging in price from $50,000 to $160,000. Neighbors said they were concerned that the resort was developing its property, a prospect they have long opposed.

walkabout

Advocate 8.22.90 Pg. 2

By Deidre Consolati

INTO THE CRYSTAL BALL: A plan for the recession in Lee would have to include the vision of a community shared by more than one town, with an exchange of local goods and services among them to lower the living cost for all. Localizing ourselves in this way will enable us to survive the uncharted era of diminishing dreams in the 1990s. Cost-effective methods for high-priced services formerly offered by the state and low-priced needed items would be offered by visionary entrepreneurs. Thus will small business survive and thrive. Town borders will begin to dissolve as communities mesh to share common services now offered independently by each. If the recession deepens, the marginally poor people in Lee would continue to get poorer (what usually happens) but the big difference will be that many more people will become poor.

As a community it will be time for Lee to come up with a new vision and new priorities: expansion of service groups and a newly organized town commission to give aid to the poor and homeless, cooperation and sharing of goods and services, support for each other, a love for the land, a viable education and a bright vision for the future for our children -- these are values we will need to stress anew in our town.

The coming changes may be greater than expected. If this should prove to be, our survival as a town will depend upon our developed ability to examine new problems with sharpened objectivity and to act swiftly in their resolution. The world economy, once it starts to deteriorate, will probably do so very rapidly. For this reason it will be vital for towns such as Lee to begin immediately to enlarge their capacity to help those citizens who are in danger of becoming poor and will be seeking help (possibly in greater numbers than expected) when the time comes. Visionary town leadership will be required to lead Lee through these coming and very difficult times.

From this vantage point, the town's unsettling new policy of one board suing another borders on the ridiculous. We are attempting to set new goals and to survive in the 1990s, a critical period of readjustment. To fritter away taxpayers' money (when they have little enough themselves) on foolish infighting is at best obstructive to efficient and responsible town government. Witness the Lee selectmen's yearlong battle and spending many town dollars resisting a much-needed low-income housing project proposed by the Lee Housing Authority. This issue was finally laid to rest last week when the selectmen voted 2-1 to allow the plan to go through. Yet to be resolved, though, are proposed and needless expenditures for a labor negotiator between the selectmen and the DPW, at odds over the firing of a foreman, and the recent appeal by the selectmen to a sensible ZBA decision to allow a single road to serve five new houses on a dangerous stretch of East Street in Lee.

A RECENT CONCERT at Tanglewood by mellow guitarist-singer James Taylor (who lived in the Berkshires in the '70s) was the most popular cultural offering of the summer, declared many Lee teen-agers who attended. By concert day, Tanglewood's lawn space had sold out, a rare occurrence.

"EXHAUSTED" LEE RESIDENTS cite Diesel Dan's on state Route 102, Vallerie Transportation on Marble Street and Lee Price Chopper (on the West Park Street side) as three area businesses who need to monitor the constantly running diesel engines of large trucks connected with their commerce. Local people complain that in each case their privacy is invaded by the noise and the fumes endanger their health. In the eyes of the Lee community it would be a fine public-relations move on the part of all three to deal effectively with these complaints.

HIGHLY VISIBLE, well-known, well-loved Lee person of the week: Garbage collector Nelson Daley. Known for his acerbic wit, Nelson picks up the trash and delivers his share of quips, puns and local observations in transit. He thrives on the give-and-take in garbage and word, and transforms an otherwise ordinary exchange into unabashed fun. Let's hear it for Nelson, the trash man.

THE SOUND OF LOCUSTS in Highlawn's fields is gathering in decibels, directly proportional to the number of geese on Laurel Lake. A few avant-garde bright-red leaves may be found on swamp maples at Eden Hill in nearby Stockbridge. They will chill us with their imagery, and we wake up groping for a blanket. The summer is short, so short. Now's the time for taking long, luxurious swims in the lake and filling our plate with sweet Berkshire corn. Queen Anne's lace and goldenrod line dusty roads, and wild cucumber -- the kudzu of the north -- weaves dreamlike mats of vines and tendrils upon all possible perpendicular locations. May summer leave its own magic imprint upon your heart, and peace with your neighbor.

Atty. general gets court order against waterproofing firms

Eagle 8.22.90 Pg. B1

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

A small conglomerate of three Berkshire County firms that advertise basement waterproofing and other home improvement services is the target of a temporary restraining order obtained yesterday by Attorney General James M. Shannon, who alleges that the firms' claims are misleading and their guarantees false.

Yesterday's order, issued by Superior Court Judge Barbara J. Rouse, prohibits the firms from "dissipating any revenue" until further notice. Shannon said he sought the order to make sure that funds are available to pay consumer claims.

Last night, however, a former officer of the companies said that two of the firms have been dissolved and that their downfall was the result of negative publicity stemming from the complaints of a few unreasonable customers. He said a third company, Greylock Services Inc., is in the process of being dissolved because of the same difficulties.

In a complaint filed in Suffolk Superior Court, Shannon charged Basement Waterproofing Nationwide Inc. of 4 Maple St., Lee, Basement Waterproofing Nationwide/Western Mass. Inc. of 46 Crystal St., Lenox, and Greylock Services Inc. of the same address with committing "unfair and deceptive acts and practices in the advertisement, sale and servicing of home improvement services, including residential waterproofing."

According to Shannon, all three companies are controlled by Basement Waterproofing Nationwide Inc.

[An Aug. 12 article in The Eagle reported that 56 complaints had been lodged against the firm. It said that the company appeared to have closed its doors but that a new firm, Greylock Services Inc., seemed to be selling the same services from the same office. The article also said Shannon's office reported that the consumers involved paid out a total of $100,000 and claimed they didn't get the dry basements they were promised.]

"This company knew that there was a serious problem with its service," Shannon said in a prepared statement. "Basement Waterproofing's response has been to ignore consumer complaints and continue to market its product under other corporate names. We are taking legal action to force this company to honor its obligations to consumers."

He said the company guaranteed that

RESTRAINT, continued on B2

Shannon obtains court order against waterproofing firms

Eagle 8.22.90

■ RESTRAINT, from B1

it would service all waterproofing contracts for the life of the structure, regardless of ownership. Also, he said, the firm promised that waterproofing would be reapplied free of charge if there was any additional water leakage and that no digging or excavation was required.

The complaint says that the firm failed to respond to consumers' requests for service and that individual consumers had paid between $600 and $3,500 for the waterproofing work.

According to Shannon, the firm recently began to do business under the name Greylock Services "in an attempt to avoid consumer liability." He said Greylock is controlled by the other defendant firms and "is making the identical representations to consumers concerning product effectiveness, lifetime guarantee and the effectiveness of the waterproofing without digging or excavation."

Last night, neither of the principals of the firms, Richard Jansky and his father, Charles S. Jansky, both of Lenox, could be reached for comment.

However, Alfred Medeiros of Lenox, who said that until about a year ago he was clerk of Greylock Services and president of Basement Waterproofing, blamed the firms' troubles on The Eagle.

"After your newspaper wrote an article last February about some complaints from customers [regarding Basement Waterproofing], we couldn't get jobs," Medeiros said. "We had contracts on the table, and the customers backed out when they read about it. They believe what they read in your paper whether it's true or not. Our cash flow went to zero."

He said the company "checked every one of those complaints out and found most of them to be unfounded." He added that the firm wrote a letter to Shannon outlining its efforts to deal with the complaints and pointed out that each complaint was logged on a list for action. He said the company followed up on all 56 complaints.

In a few instances, Medeiros said, he found complaints to be justified. However, he said that "a local consumer group" had advised customers "to sue and get the money and not let us back in the house." He said this advice made it impos sible for the company to make g ood "because they wouldn't let us in the door."

He said he s till appears in the secretary of state's corporate listings as pres ident of Basement Waterproofing and clerk of Greylock Services because of "state bureaucracy" t hat did not act on the changes in dicated in a letter written "month s ago."

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Lee, Daley far apart on landfill fee

Eagle 8.22.90 Pg. B4

LEE — The operator of the town's transfer station and the town remain more than $10,000 apart on a fee to rent town land at the landfill for the station's operation.

Operator Nelson L. Daley is proposing a fee of $1,200 annually. The town's Department of Public Works, however, is recommending $12,000. This difference is the last aspect of negotiations that have been going on between Daley and the town for several months.

On Monday night, Daley's attorney, Robert M. Fuster, told the board that the DPW's estimates were based on information provided by the town's consulting engineer, Tighe & Bond Associates. But Fuster said that the estimates were "grossly inaccurate," since they predicted 10,000 tons of demolition debris annually. Daley's totals, he said, would be a tiny fraction of that.

Fuster said that the estimate by Tighe & Bond was also based on an assumption that the debris Daley would handle would stay at the landfill. This was not true, either, Fuster said, as Daley operates a transfer station, which moves the trash to another location.

DPW member John L. Piacquadio defended his board's estimate by pointing out that the contract did not limit Daley's transfer station to demolition debris from Lee contractors only. Opening up the transfer station to all of South Berkshire County, he said, could generate a considerable volume of debris.

Daley countered by offering to limit his collection containers to 16 or 17 from Lee and three or four to the rest of South Berkshire. He added that with recycling going on countywide, Vicon Recovery Systems of Pittsfield was taking much of his commercial debris already. If that continued, he said, he would not need the transfer station for his demolition debris.

The Selectmen split 1-1 on the matter, with Chairman Joseph DuPont abstaining. Selectman William Bean said he was inclined to go along with the DPW's recommendation of $12,000, while Selectman Diane P. Roosa opted for the $1,200 figure.

DuPont, who has done some work for Daley as an independent contractor, said he would get an opinion in writing from Town Counsel Jerome J. Scully as to whether he can vote and thus break the deadlock.

Mead Paper To Increase Capacity

Courier 8.23.90 Pg. 11

SOUTH LEE -- Mead Specialty Paper Division has announced a $14 million program to increase production capacity and cost effectiveness at its two mills in South Lee.

"The improvements will increase the production capacity of the division by about 30 percent," according to Dave Klausmeyer, division president. He said the improvements are necessary to "meet the needs of expanding markets, and increase our share in key market sectors."

The program -- to be carried out in three phases -- calls for the installation of equipment to improve the speed and efficiency of papermaking on each of the company's three machines.

Mr. Klausmeyer said the first phase of the project -- to cost $6.3 million -- has already begun. Completion is expected at the end of this year. The second and third phases of the project will be carried out in 1991 and 1992. Cost of the second phase is expected to be $5.8 million. Phase three will cost approximately $2 million. More than 30 major equipment upgrades are included in .the three phases.

Improvements to be made in the first phase include the installation of new, large pulpers which will reduce the total number of batches produced, thus improving product consistency from batch to batch.,

A new temperature control system on the large No. 3 paper making will improve drainage and increase uniformity in product quality, Mr. Klausmeyer said.

Another important part of the phase one program is the development of a new color control program to assure color consistency from batch to batch.

John Genzabella, vice president, operations, said the changes would increase capacity and cost-effectiveness in three ways: by permitting the paper machines to run faster, by decreasing machine downtime and by reducing the amount of broke, or waste paper, that is produced. The end result, he said, "will be an even stronger and more profitable operation."

Mr. Genzabella pointed out that the market for the company's low-pressure products used in Euro-style cabinets and ready-to-assemble furniture is expected to grow at an annual rate of 7 percent over the next several years. He called the increased capacity resulting from the equipment upgrades a "strategic imperative to serve this important market."

He also said the company anticipates continued market growth for its high pressure products, although he said this market will grow at a slower rate.

In addition, the company announced it will spend more than $7 million to expand the distributed process control system to the two paper machines at its Willow mill. Distributed process control is a computer-based system which monitors and helps manage the paper making process assuring uniform high product quality and consistency.

Resurfacing planned for Routes 7 & 20

Eagle 8.23.90 Pg. B1

By Daniel Pearl
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LENOX — The state Department of Public Works yesterday awarded $3 million in contracts to resurface 8 miles of Routes 7 and 20 in Lenox and Lee. The work is expected to begin after Labor Day, break for the winter and resume next spring.

DPW officials said the entire stretch of road — from the DPW district highway office in Lenox to the Laurel Street bridge in Lee — will remain open, but motorists can expect some traffic delays as lanes are closed.

Petricca Construction Co. of Pittsfield got a $1.34 million contract to resurface the 2-mile stretch of Route 20 from Lee to the Cranwell Resort, said DPW spokesman Scott Pickard. He said the work includes new sidewalks, rebuilt stone walls and drainage improvements.

Main Street included

Lane Construction Corp. of Meriden, Conn., got a $1.63 million contract to resurface both Routes 7 and 20 and Route 7A from the DPW office, where they intersect, to Cranwell, said Pickard. Route 7A is Main Street in Lenox.

The work includes guardrail improvements, removal of ledge near the road, new curbs and some roadside planting.

"We'll try to keep as much of the road open as we can, but it's inevitable that you have delays when you do this type of construction," Pickard said.

He said Petricca's work will begin at Cranwell and move south; the direction of the Lane job has not yet been determined.

Ross B. Dindio, district highway engineer, said Lane's job involves the Lenox bypass, a five-lane divided highway, so traffic delays there will be slight.

Dindio said both contracts require the hiring of police officers to direct traffic.

He said the work is a maintenance job that has nothing to do with the emerging plans for short-term improvements to the Routes 7 and 20 corridor. Those plans, which the DPW intends to make final next year, will likely include four U-turn lanes with stoplights, realignment of commercial driveway entrances and some redrawn intersections.

Dindio said that as part of the resurfacing project, the DPW will standardize the driveways along the highway. The standard size for a residential driveway is 16 feet; for a commercial driveway, 25 to 30 feet.

The DPW had discovered that many of the driveways on the highway don't have curb-cut permits, but Dindio said, "Nobody's going to be closed out." Instead, the DPW will put the location and size of each driveway on record after the resurfacing is completed, he said.

Petricca was the low bidder among three contractors for the Lee-Lenox job, and Lane's bid was the lowest of three for the Lenox job, Pickard said.

Hodgkins to file anti-gouging bill

LEE — State Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, said he will file legislation to prohibit price gouging by oil distributors and retailers.

Hodgkins, who is running for re-election to his 4th Berkshire District House seat, said the language of the law would be similar to a set of regulations issued by the Office of Consumer Affairs and the attorney general.

Eagle 8.23.90 Pg. B3

The regulations, which went into effect Aug. 10, establish measures to determine price gouging by a petroleum-related business during a disparity between the price of the petroleum before and after the market emergency and determine if that disparity is not substantially attributable to additional costs imposed by suppliers.

Consumers can then keep track of petroleum product prices and report to the attorney general's office significant increases or trends at particular businesses, said Hodgkins.

"We need this law so that in the future if price gouging occurs and we want price increases investigated, there is an avenue we can take to prosecute any business found guilty of gouging," he said in a prepared statement.

The Berkshire Eagle

Friday, August 24, 1990

B

CITY & TOWN

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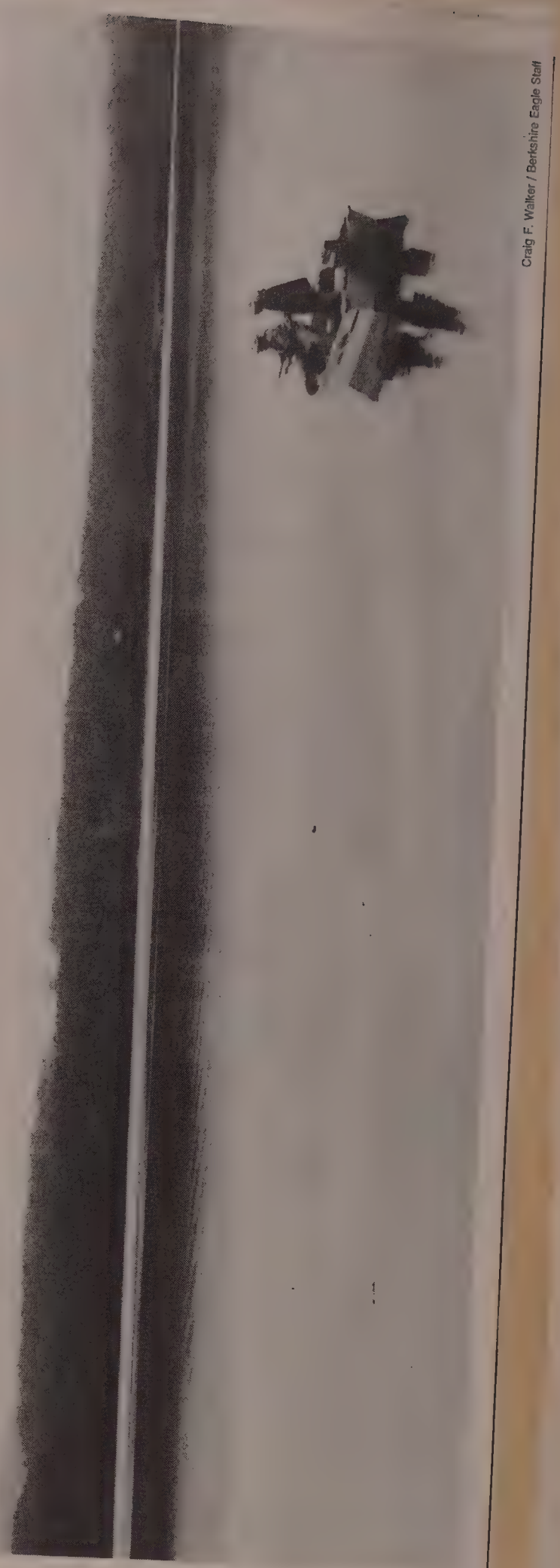
Second wettest month



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Suited in rain gear in the area's second wettest month on record, Joseph Chiota and his daughter Diane, both of Adams, fish on misty Laurel Lake in Lee. As of 5 p.m. yesterday, 12.32 inches of rain had been recorded for the month at Pittsfield Airport. With eight days still left in August, the all-time record of 13.95 registered in May 1984 is in sight. The wettest previous August was in 1975, when rainfall totaled 8.3 inches.

Laurie Forfa

Memories

Eagle 8.25.90 Pg. B1

LEE

Like a lot of other Berkshire County folks, we'll be sending our firstborn off to college in just a matter of days. The buildup to this event is producing an outpouring of memories from my son Eddie's own travel through life thus far to my own recollections of heading off to post-high school education.

At the August Classic Basketball Tournament in Adams, Pam Naventi of Lee and I watched our younger daughters shoot hoop and compared notes on where we were getting with sending our older children off to college. The people around us shook their heads and murmered, 'It doesn't seem possible, they grew up so fast.' Trite phrases, I'd always thought, but suddenly real and true.

I thought of the photo I have of Eddie and Pam's daughter Marcey when they were grade-school bowling champions. In it, Marcey, who stretches to 5-foot-1, towers over Eddie, who today pushes 6 feet.

I was cited several times for failing to keep my shades pulled exactly half way.

The move to college prompted Eddie's sister to admit she'd had an eye on his room since the day he'd sent out his first application. Her thought was to blast out the wall between the rooms and immediately double her own space. Not a bad idea except that Eddie was not about to give up his room. He was going to school, not moving out. We settled on the alternative of moving my office upstairs and Allison down into the larger space. It was during this move that many of the memories continued to flow.

As we were lugging cardboard boxes of clippings and other treasures upstairs, a large brown folder fell out. In it was all my old nursing school records. They'd been forwarded to me a few years ago since my nursing school is no longer in existence.

The kids grabbed my high school transcript and let out a triumphant yell. It seems that while I've only been accepting of A's and B's on their part, my memory has played a small trick on me. I'd somehow forgotten the small but steady stream of C's that march in front of a listing called algebra and that appeared intermittently after geometry and chemistry.

You did OK in English, history and languages my son consoled me, although I could tell he couldn't understand why anyone would want to take Latin and English in the same year.

We read the record of the interview I'd had with Marguerite Tristany as part of applying to the St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing. I look at my son and his friends. They seem so eager and self assured going off to school. The notes Marguerite made during the interview describe me as a "little shy, pleasing smile, mother does quite a bit of talking for daughter."

My kids laugh. No one would talk for them — especially not their mother. They can't imagine me letting anyone else doing the talking for me.

I think of the sometimes serious escapades of college students today reported in the media and my children and I go through my school evaluations. They say I performed well clinically, provided outstanding care to patients. But my children learn their mother had a disciplinary record as well.

It seems I persisted in wearing black rather than white bobby pins to hold on my student cap. I was cited several times for failing to keep my shades pulled exactly half way (to give the building a nice appearance from the street) and I'd been caught failing to wear a long coat over my shorts one hot August when I was on the first floor of the nurses' residence. My son swears he'll not follow in his mother's errant footsteps.

I look at the stack of sheets we purchased for Eddie to take to UMass. The sheets were supplied when I went to school in the '60s. I got one new one each week. I was then expected to strip off the used bottom sheet, drop it down the laundry chute, put the used top sheet on the bottom and place the new clean sheet on the top. Somehow I don't envision my son and his college colleagues performing this thrifty ritual.

The times are obviously very different. The world into which my children pass is very different from the one I encountered at 18. But a common thread is the memories shared from generation to generation, the family stories, the human stories that provide the moments of humor, of understanding, of comfort.

Yes, they do grow up fast. Before I know it they'll be sharing their stories with yet another generation.

Laurie Forfa, a Lee resident, is vice president for nursing at North Adams Regional Hospital.

Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Castle beach

Eagle 8/28/90 Pg. B1

Lifeguard Heather Bachteler and Florie Consolati, 7, do a little maintenance work on a sand castle built earlier at the town beach on Laurel Lake in Lee. Like the summer, its days are numbered.

Zoning scofflaws worrying Lee

Eagle 8.29.90 Pg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

Selectmen Chairman Joseph DuPont said abuses are becoming more common because Lee is running out of buildable land.

LEE — Town officials here are trying to cope with what they believe is a growing number of zoning scofflaws who seemingly ignore zoning and building codes and do work in wetlands.

At issue is the enforcement of these laws. On Monday night, Conservation Commission Chairman Cary Quigley told the Selectmen that she knew of at least six property owners in town who are doing work illegally in wetlands. But, Quigley said, her board has no power to stop the work short of initiating a court case against the landowners.

Quigley said such cases are inevitably time-consuming and do not always result in conviction. Part-time volunteer boards like hers, Quigley said, do not have the financial resources or time to see them adjudicated.

Building Inspector Robert W. Lester said many of the violations are made in ignorance of the Wetlands Protection Act, but he added that some residents do not follow procedures for working in wetlands because the cost is too great.

Quigley agreed, saying she was told point-blank by a landowner several months ago that he had no intention of paying an engineer to review his building plans near a wetland because it was too expensive.

Although Lester said he can withhold building permits in some of these cases, he noted that this only prevents property owners from getting mortgages. Lester said he knew of one case where the property owner got a construction loan, built his house and moved in without getting a building permit.

Lester is not a full-time building inspector. He said that, like the Conservation Commission, he is reluctant to take offenders to court because of the cost to the town and time involved.

Selectmen Chairman Joseph DuPont said he believes that abuses are becoming more common because Lee is running out of buildable land.

"People are now having to build on hillsides and in wet areas," he said. While building in these areas is not illegal, he said, it does require engineering to determine where on a lot a house can be put up. Such engineering is invariably costly.

DuPont said he knew of a lot for sale on East Street that is at least partly in a wetland.

"I know it's wet because all the other lots on that side of the street are wet," he said.

He said he did not know how the town could cope with these scofflaws. In one effort, Selectmen have approved an increase in fines for several bylaw violations from $50 per violation per day to $300 per violation per day,

Quigley suggested that Lee, perhaps in conjunction with other small towns, could hire an environmental police officer to keep an eye on new construction. Although such an officer would have no more power to enforce the laws than the town does now, such a position would create a presence in town that is not available now.

"A lot of people just try and sneak things by us," she said.

Eagle 8.29.90

Wilcox finishing diocesan walk

Pg. B4

LEE — Douglas Wilcox from St. George's Church is nearing the completion of his 650-mile prayer walk around the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

Wilcox is visiting all the diocese's 69 churches for services, refreshment and fellowship in an effort to build a sense of unity and to raise the awareness of the ecumenical Decade of Evangelism.

This week he is in the Berkshires. Yesterday he made stops at St. Andrew's Chapel in Blackinton and St. John's Church in Williamstown. Future stops are:

► Today, noon, St. Luke's Church, Lanesboro; 5:30 p.m., St. Martin's Church, Pittsfield.

► Tomorrow, noon, St. Stephen's, Pittsfield; 5:30, St. Helena's, Lenox.

► Friday, noon, Trinity, Lenox; 5:30 St. George's, Lee.

► Saturday, noon, Good Shepherd, South Lee; 5:30, St. Paul's, Stockbridge.

► Sunday, noon, St. James', Great Barrington; 5:30, Christ Church, Sheffield.

His visit to Christ Church will complete his walk.

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Leslie Noyes / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Eagle 8.29.90 Pg. B3

Girls of summer

Donna Toomey and her daughters Laura, 11 months, Kayla, 3, and Shannon, 7, head for the Lee town beach on Laurel Lake for a swim.

Basement waterproofers slapped with injunction

Eagle 8.30.90 Pg. C1

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

Following up on legal action begun last week against three Berkshire County firms that advertise basement waterproofing, the attorney general's office yesterday obtained a preliminary injunction against the companies.

The order, which was signed yesterday by Superior Court Judge Barbara Dortch, sitting in Suffolk County, affects Basement Waterproofing Nationwide Inc. of Lee, Basement Waterproofing Nationwide/ Western Mass. Inc. and Greylock Services Inc., both of Lenox.

Evelynne L. Swaggerty, the assistant attorney general who is handling the case, said yesterday that the injunction is the first step in a legal process that could end with a trial, although settlement is a possibility.

Last week, Swaggerty's office obtained a temporary restraining order which prohibited the firms from "dissipating any revenue" until further notice. Officials said they sought the order to make sure that funds are available to pay consumer claims against the companies. So far, more than 50 complaints have been filed with the attorney general's office.

New firm

An Aug. 12 article in The Eagle reported the complaints and said that the company appeared to have closed its doors, but that a new firm, Greylock Services Inc., seemed to be selling the same services from the same office. The article also said that consumers paid out a total of $100,000 and claimed that they did not get the dry basements they were promised.

Yesterday's action goes further than the temporary restraining order. It includes a direction that no funds be disbursed or company assets disposed of or encumbered, but it also:

► Prohibits the firms from placing any type of advertising that "misrepresents the effectiveness of the service(s) being sold, including statements that defendants' service can produce a dry basement, will 'completely and permanently eliminate all water leakage,' makes 'wet basements dry without digging,' and is '100 percent guaranteed effective results' and misrepresents the nature and extent of the warranty given to the service(s) being sold."

► Prohibits the firms from "failing to fulfill promises or obligations arising under the warranty given for the service(s) being sold."

► Directs that the companies tell consumers that while the waterproofing agent used, sodium bentonite, is generally effective, it does not always stop water seepage when applied by the pressure injection method. Also, the firms must disclose that the success of the pressure injection method depends on several factors, including water table level and amount of annual rainfall.

Must respond

When the firms receive complaints, oral or written, the court order requires that they investigate and inspect the work within five business days of the complaint. Also, the companies must respond to complaints in writing within five business days. The letter must pass on the validity of the complaint, give the reasons for the determination, and outline any proposed action.

In addition, valid complaints must be remedied, at no charge to the consumer, within 10 business days after investigation of the complaint.

Last week, Alfred Medeiros of Lenox, former clerk of Greylock Services Inc. and former president of Basement Waterproofing, said that the Basement Waterproofing firms have been dissolved, leaving only Greylock Services. He blamed the companies' troubles on a few unreasonable customers and on what he said was unnecessarily inflammatory publicity in The Eagle. He also said the firms responded to complaints as efficiently as possible and kept the attorney general's office abreast of their efforts.

Lenox population dives; Adams, N. Adams, Lee lose

Eagle 8.31.90 Pg. A1

Mount Washington shows the biggest jump in population — 31 percent. But with 135 people it is still the county's smallest town.

By Raymond J. Lamont
Berkshire Eagle Staff

PITTSFIELD — Numbers released by the U.S. Census Bureau show that 14 of Berkshire County's 32 communities have lost population in the last 10 years.

The biggest percentage loss was in Lenox, where the population has fallen 31 percent since 1980, partly because of the withdrawal of The Bible Speaks. Adams, North Adams, Pittsfield, Lanesboro, Lee and Clarksburg all suffered drops of 7 to 10 percent.

But North Adams Mayor John Barrett III said the numbers don't tell the whole story of what has happened in his city. More accurately, he said yesterday, they tell an old one.

Stabilized

"The numbers we're seeing now tell us what happened five and six years ago," said Barrett, alluding to the 1985 closing of Sprague Electric Co. and other economic downturns that plagued the city early in the decade.

"But I feel we've stabilized in the past six years," he said. "Our economy isn't super, but it's no longer getting belted. And all in all, these are not numbers I'm worried about."

Indeed, the 16,675 population listed for North Adams represents a 404 increase over the 16,271 figure tallied in the city's own census for 1989.

Stephen Driscoll, public in-

Gas Ripoff

Courier 8.30.90 Pg. 5

To the Editor:

A few weeks ago when I stopped to get gas on my way to the Mass. Turnpike, the price of unleaded gas was 93 cents per gallon. It cost $19 to fill up my '83 Chevy.

A few days later, after the governor signed into law an increase in the gas tax (money which is dedicated to repairing and maintaining our roads and bridges), the gas prices were supposed to increase by six cents. But that's not what we saw.

We saw gas prices increase by not only six cents, but by at least 10 cents, perhaps is a little distributor bonus.

I called the state Executive Office of Consumer Affairs to see what the story was and was informed that prices had increased similarly across the state. *The Boston Globe* and *The Boston Herald* did stories on how we as consumers were being price gouged at the gas tanks.

This week I stopped at the same gas station in Lee. It cost me a whopping $27 to fill my tank.

Only two days after Iraq invaded Kuwait, we were paying inflated pries for gas at the pump that was purchased by distributors at a much lower price.

Enough is enough.

As a result, I asked Consumer Affairs Secretary Mary Ann Walsh and Attorney General James Shannon to investigate and address the problem of price gouging.

I was afraid that this would be yet another investigation, such as the one conducted last February when fuel oil prices increased outrageously and we felt the oil companies reach deep into our pockets. that investigation showed us what we already knew. We were being sucker punched by greed again. Even though there was proof of price gouging, nothing could be done to prohibit it from continuing.

That's why when I contacted the Attorney General and Consumer Affairs, I asked for the current state regulations to be updated to prohibit price gouging and for penalties to be implemented if the regulation were violated. (Prior to last week, there were no Massachusetts state laws or regulations to protect us as consumers from price gouging.)

In addition, I am working on changing the state law to reflect these regulation changes and make them stronger by making them permanent.

Last week, new regulations in fact were promulgated by the Attorney General's office under the Consumer Protection Act, Chapter 93A, as of Aug. 10, and are effective for 90 days. They send a message to oil companies that Massachusetts is watching and will take action to stop price gouging.

In particular, the regulations make it "an unfair act or practice for a petroleum related business to charge an unconscionably high price for petroleum products during any market emergency." According to the Attorney General's office, petroleum products are defined as, but not limited to, motor fuels and fuel oils used for heating and cooking.

Two basic measures are used under the regulations to determine price gouging. The first is if there is a gross disparity between the price of the product immediately before the market emergency and after. The second is if that disparity is not substantially attributable to additional costs imposed by suppliers. Any violation of these regulations may be punishable by a $5,000 civil penalty for each violation in addition to attorneys fees and other costs.

Although we haven't seen prices decrease dramatically, we have seen them level off and stabilize.

In last week's *Berkshire Courier*, South County residents were questioned about the recent hike in gas prices. Most people replied that as consumers, they felt they basically had no protection against the increases or control to do anything about them. If this happens again, we won't see our elected officials running off to ask for another futile investigation hat has no teeth. We now have the "teeth" in place to prohibit and if necessary penalize violators of the new sate regulations - and soon state law - to prohibit price gouging.

Christopher J. Hodgkins
Lee

Berkshire County Census Results

City/Town	1980	1990	Chang
Adams	10,381	9,385	−99
Alford	383	418	3
Becket	1,284	1,481	19
Cheshire	3,124	3,442	31
Clarksburg	1,871	1,739	−13
Dalton	6,797	7,282	48
Egremont	1,312	1,222	−9
Florida	729	742	1
Great Barrington	7,405	7,668	26
Hancock	639	623	−1
Hinsdale	1,707	1,923	21
Lanesboro	3,131	2,855	−27
Lee	6,247	5,796	−45
Lenox	6,523	4,822	−1,70
Monterey	822	803	−1
Mount Washington	103	135	3
New Ashford	159	190	3
New Marlboro	1,160	1,223	6
North Adams	18,063	16,675	−1,38
Otis	963	1,018	5
Peru	630	737	10
Pittsfield	51,974	47,950	−4,02
Richmond	1,663	1,586	−7
Sandisfield	720	663	−5
Savoy	645	632	−1
Sheffield	2,743	2,768	2
Stockbridge	2,328	2,351	2
Tyringham	340	363	2
Washington	642	611	−3
West Stockbridge	1,280	1,471	19
Williamstown	8,741	8,184	−55
Windsor	601	770	16
BERKSHIRE COUNTY TOTAL	145,110	137,528	−7,5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Data for 1990 is preliminary and subject to revision.

Mount Washington's population up sharply

Eagle 8.31.90

■ CENSUS, from A1

Speaks, said Paul Boudreau, data-management officer for the Berkshire County Regional Planning Commission.

The religious organization had about 1,600 members in South County, including approximately 350 members and employees living in Lenox. Nonetheless, the Route 9."

A rise in many South Coun towns may indicate that "peop who have owned second homes the past may now have retire there," Boudreau said.

That applies perhaps most n tably to the county's smalle community, Mount Washingto which shows a population jum

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Jobs for learning-disabled offered at ice-cream shop

Eagle 9.2.90 Pg. F1

By Rose Foley
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Psychologist Michael McManmon said it was four or five years ago that the idea was formed to open a business in town where young adults with learning disabilities could be taught job skills.

That business will actually be two — an ice-cream parlor and snack shop called Cone Zone, which opened recently in one side of the former Marble Hardware building at 54 Main St., and a sports equipment store called World Cup Sports that is expected to open in the other side of the building by November.

The ice-cream shop, which has added its own flavor to the town, will be staffed by eight to 10 young adults who are part of McManmon's Transitional Apartment Program on Park Street. They are also expected to work in the sports store.

McManmon said TAP deals with about 12 men and women, ages 18 to 30 who have learning disabilities, mild psychological problems or are developmentally disabled and provides them with a place to live where they can also learn skills needed to live independently.

One of those needed skills is working at a job. The Cone Zone is ready to provide that learning ground.

"The clients will be trained here and work here," said McManmon, who owns the store with his wife, Linda. The McManmons are managing the store, at least for the time being, and other supervisory staff, all of whom have experience working with learning disabilities, are employed at the store.

The jobs for the clients will be what is expected at such an enterprise — making cones, working the cash register, cleaning tables, sweeping up.

"Ultimately, they'll be doing everything," said Michael McManmon, who

JOBS, continued on F5

Work skills developed on the job

■ JOBS, from F1

Eagle 9.2.90

moved to Lee with his family about eight years ago. Although he's been a psychologist for 10 years, he has worked with kids for 20 years and has operated group homes in Nevada, Kansas, Arkansas, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Graduate at work

McManmon said the young adults are just now getting familiar with the ice-cream parlor work and he expects them to be integrated with the work by the middle of winter.

Stephen Henegan, 33, of Center Street, who graduated from TAP about two years ago, has already been working at the store. While Henegan said he has had schooling at C.W. Post, St. John's University and a year of pre-med study at Colgate University in New York, he's had difficulty keeping jobs because of thought distraction caused by emotional difficulties.

The store's staff provides him with the encouragement he needs, said McManmon.

Henegan is forthright about his job.

"It's something to do. I'm not excited, but I get something out of working here. I get money and the people are nice," he said.

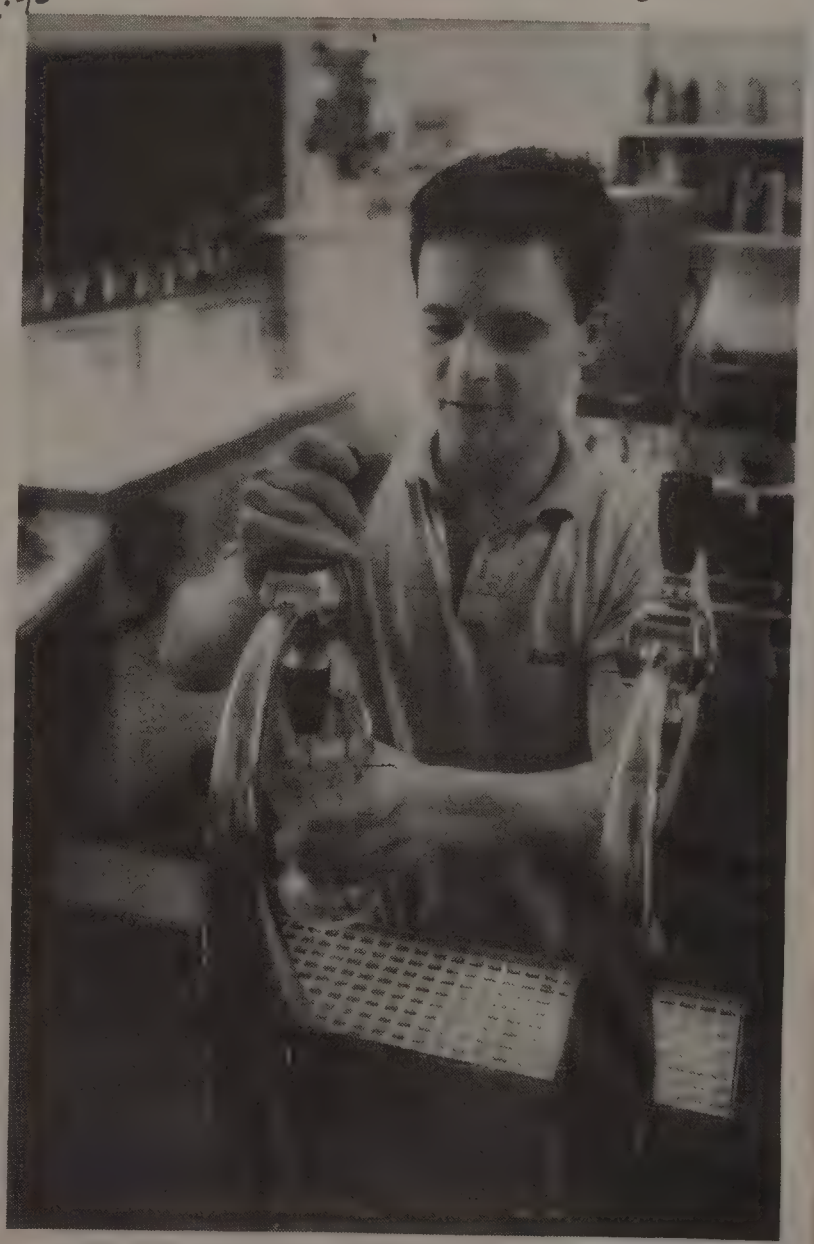
The ice-cream parlor itself has a cheery quality to it. The walls are painted a colorful lavender, mint green and greenish-yellow.

There's a juke box that plays mostly '50s and '60s music and an aquarium with little surprises, like a treasure chest that opens in one corner and a deep-sea diver that picks up a piece of treasure. Behind all that is a wishing fountain. All coins thrown in are donated to the Lee Youth Association.

In addition to 12 Fabulous Phil ice-cream flavors, developed by Phil Kampe of Pittsfield, the shop has soft-serve ice cream, frozen yogurt and snack foods that range from homemade chili to nachos and fudge nut pies.

For $3.49, one can purchase a concoction called "Zone Your Own," a large bowl of five types of ice cream with any type of topping.

McManmon said he wants to make both the ice-cream and sports stores real businesses, adding that the town's business-people have been very supportive.



Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Stephen Henegan, a graduate of the TAP program for young adults with learning disabilities, is already at work at Cone Zone in Lee.

The ice-cream parlor itself has a cheery quality to it.

Financing for the project has come from parents of the TAP program graduates, he said.

"If there's anything unique about us, I think it's the togetherness we have been able to form with our staff and parents," he said. "We all feel personal debts of gratitude toward them. They're so open and giving, we're trying to give back."

The ice-cream parlor's post-Labor Day hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. weeknights, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturdays and 1 to 11 p.m. on Sundays. The telephone number is 243-1132.

Advocate 9.5.90 Pg. 2

walkabout

By
Deidre Consolati

TRANSITION INTO FALL: In front of McClelland's Drugstore in Lee, young music students in groups of two or three waited languidly last week for buses traveling to Manhattan or Boston. They formed a colorful and interesting study, much like a French painting reveals the traits and habits of Parisian city dwellers. A lone musician, bereted and dressed in black from head to toe, explained his exhaustion. He appeared at BPAC (Berkshire Performing Arts Center) in Lenox the evening before and it was grueling work, for which he earned a demoralizing $300. He noted that creativity in music was paid as low as other fields of artistic expression. Then he gave his name, Frank Lacy ("without an e"). Things were looking up, he said. He has a record coming out on the ENGA label, called *Blue Fire*. In parting, he observed nostagically that people in Lee are "friendly, the same as people in my home town in Texas."

At the town beach, parents and kids were logging their final hours of swimming before retying themselves to old, familiar school routines. They shook their head in wonderment. How could the season have passed so quickly? A few diehards were into denial. Still caught up in summer's magic spell, they wouldn't pull loose until the day before school. Then would come the mad rush to buy new shoes anbd lunchboxes. The next day, when kids went out the door to school, then and only then would summer have regretfully and truly passed.

CARNIVAL TIME: On the site of Pleasure Park, Lee's former horse-racing track, a carnival was sponsored last week by Saint Mary's parish. The former park comprises a flat piece of land on Route 102 bordering the Housatonic River about a mile south of town. The ghosts of those Lee ancestors who wagered and reveled there must have hovered still, for a sense of *deja vu* accompanied a visit there. Beartown Mountain loomed in the distance, and the setting sun, carnival lights and happy faces recalled one's own secure youth and a return to simpler pleasures. On the second evening, a memorable yellow sunset took place. This unfolded just as folks were arriving for "wristband night" where $10 bought all the rides you wanted. The phenomenon was first noticed by people driving down from town. They saw the yellow sun break through horizon clouds and turn maples on the nearby mountain a surrealistic chartreuse color. The glow fell on one and all. One carnivalgoer remarked that the sky was an ocean and we were underneath, watching the ochre waves.

GARY HOOVER, WHERE ARE YOU? Last Wednesday an informational meeting on a proposed cogeneration plant at Mead Paper Company in South Lee was held in Lee and one interested observer noted that "there is literally no opposition to the plan." Interesting, in view of the fact that although the number of megawatts of the facility will be 56 (less than half of what was proposed at another Lee plant, Kimberly-Clark, and subsequently abandoned because of local outcry) people do not realize that it is still a very large facility. Only two people from nearby Fairview Street attended Wednesday's meeting, the observer noted, and she said that she did not see Lee people "taking a good hard look" at the proposition and that they're "going to be surprised" at its size. She expressed hope that more people would attend another informational meeting to be held at the Airoldi Building on Sept. 27.

The environmental group, Concerned Citizens of Lee, who brilliantly succeeded in opposing the ill-advised cogeneration plant at Kimberly-Clark, are monitoring the project. The director of that proposed plant, Gary Hoover, left Lee after the plans collapsed. It was public information, the observer noted, that he needs to build another plant in order to fulfill his contract. CCL believes he had headed to other towns in Massachusetts to accomplish that, and thus the CCL asks: Gary Hoover, where are you?

VIGNETTES: As noted previously, to many nature watchers a Berkshire year has six subtle seasons, not four, and we're midway through the serotine. (Autumn consists of October and November.) Birches are starting to yellow and some maples have "coppered." Lake waters are definitely fresher. Garden sunflowers and marigolds have come into their own, and the cosmos bend from unprecedented August rains. Now is the time for end-of-the-season dips in cooler, invigorating waters. Already some warblers, tourists of the bird world, have moved on to other homes. We who remain watch these changes, with the backdrop of the hills as constant nourishment. Wishing you joy in your own inner changes and peace with your neighbor.

Mixing business and preservation in Lee

Joe Toole remodels St.Mary's School as inn

By Erik Bruun

When Joseph Toole bought St. Mary's School in Lee for $1 two years ago, he didn't know what he was going to do with it. Closed since 1957, the 1885 building was slated for demolition. All Toole knew was that he didn't want to see that happen.

"The thought of destroying it was totally repugnant to me," Toole said recently while giving a tour of the restored building. "I made a deal with myself. If I checked things out with due diligence and the roadblocks were removed, I'd buy it. The roadblocks were removed and here we are. This is what evolved and it's a shock to me."

Toole is now the proud owner of the Chambery Inn. He moved St. Mary's School one block to the corner of Main and Elm streets, renovated the wooden building from the floors of the basement to the peaks in the roof, and converted the structure into a luxury bed and breakfast. Toole plans to open the inn this month.

The former school's six classrooms have been turned into suites. The original slate blackboards remain, as do the 12-foot ceilings decorated with original embossed-tin, 8-foot-high windows and brass hardware.

"We've gone over every square inch," Toole says. "I've kept all the historic features and put in all the modern conveniences."

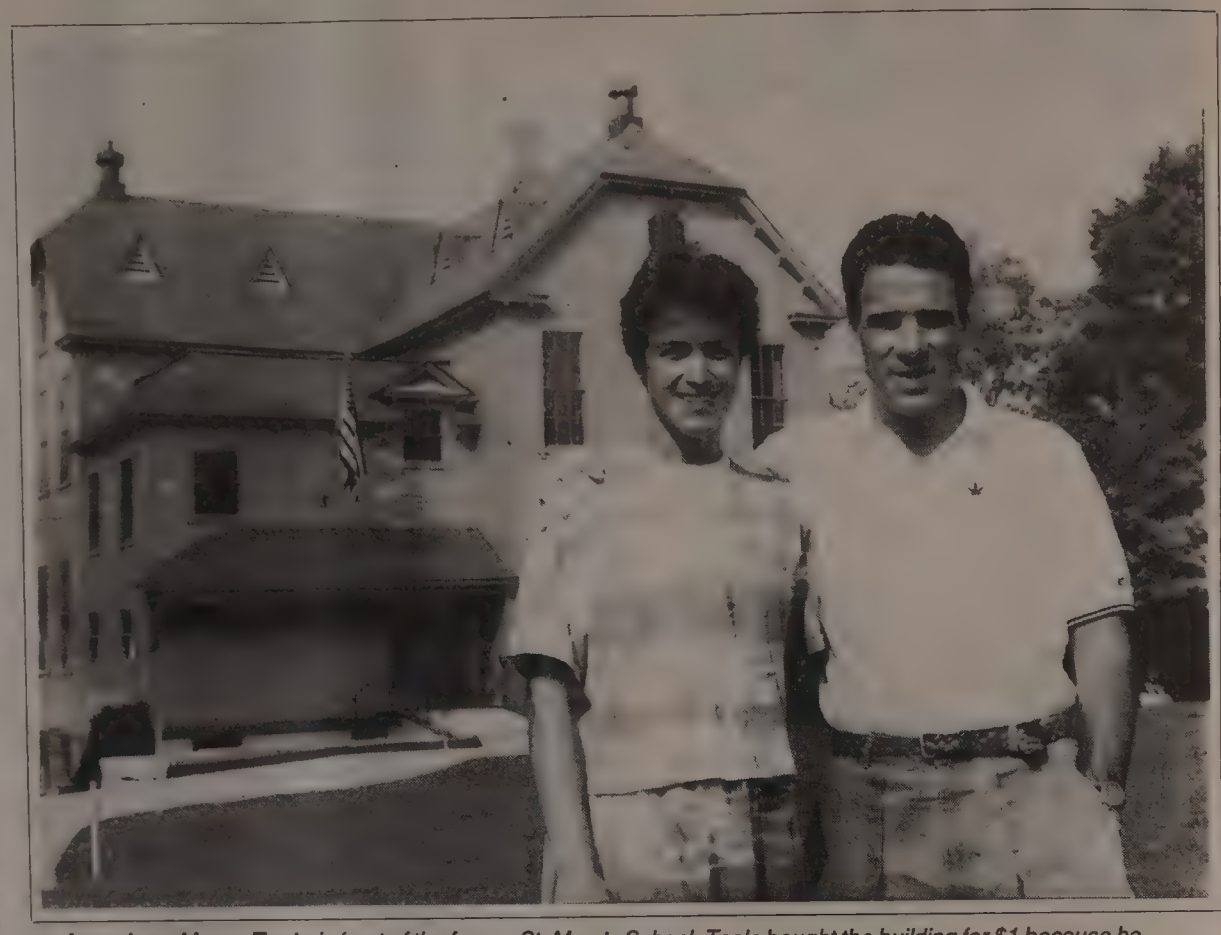
Ironically, Toole says he never intended to use the former school as an inn. That was an idea he had for the former Sons of Italy building which was torn down earlier this summer. Toole says he was hoping to sell or rent space in the former school as offices. That plan, however, fell through as the demand for office space has weakened. So, Toole transplanted the inn idea to St. Mary's.

Toole freely admits he knew virtually nothing about the lodging business before starting the venture. He is a broker and co-owner of Lawrence V. Toole Insurance Agency -- which is located right next door to the Chambery Inn -- and has a passion for history, particularly local history.

"I'm just going by my intuition," Toole says. "When logic and intuition agree, we are always right. It seems there is a real need for an inn of this quality in the area. With the number of rooms we're doing, it will be very manageable."

Toole says the lodging industry in the Berkshires is not as prone to the ups and downs of the economy as some other industries. If the national or regional economy goes down, he says, people will still go on vacations to relatively less-expensive places, such as the Berkshires.

"Joe's an entrepreneur first," says David Bruce, president of Lee Bank. "He's from Lee and is interested in Lee. Any businessman that takes an action like he did to restore a historic property and put a vacant lot to use is doing a service for the community."



Joseph and Lynn Toole *in front of the former St. Mary's School. Toole bought the building for $1 because he wanted to save the historic structure fin the center of Lee rom demolition. The idea to convert it to an inn came later. (Photo by Erik Bruun)*

The Chambery Inn is named after the city in France from where the teaching order of the sisters of St. Joseph came before founding the school in 1885 with Jane Sedgwick, a prominent Berkshire native. Five nuns arrived at the school in 1885 at Lee's railroad station -- located across the street from the inn -- to teach six grades at the new school. Toole has placed a stone monument at the doorstep of the front entrance marking the years of the school.

Toole says that downtown Lee offers an abundance of opportunities for preserving handsome historic buildings.

"The Lee Historic Commission must take a more active role in fostering historic preservation," he says. "They should be actively pursuing a historic district and fostering the preservation of historic places, which hasn't been the case."

In all, the inn has 10 rooms -- six converted-classroom suites and four smaller rooms downstairs, including a handicapped-accessible room. All rooms contain cable color TV, direct-dial telephones, heat, air conditioning and jacuzzi baths. The suites have fireplaces and king- and queen-sized beds. The inn will serve breakfasts and will have a kitchen available for guests to help themselves to light meals.

Advocate 9.5.90 Pg. 13

Lee board questions size and location of 12-unit affordable housing plan

Lee Planning Board members last night questioned the size and location of Louis Digrigoli proposal to build 12 one-bedroom apartments on Canal Street.

Although planners said there is a need in town for relatively inexpensive apartment rental units, they questioned whether the plan would meet the town's zoning regulations.

"As a private citizen I find that there's a need for this sort of thing," planning board chairman Robert Birch said. "I don't know if that's the right location for something like this though."

Other planners questioned whether Digrigoli's proposal has too many units included. The 3/4-acre parcel is allowed four units by right but would need a special permit for the proposal. Digrigoli said his preliminary plan calls for 12 units because it would be more cost-effective to have more units.

Digrigoli said the building would have six 14-by-44-foot modular units on each floor. The apartments would be similar to a complex in Lenox near the intersection of Route 7 and Housatonic Street.

"If you went over there and asked you would find that there's a year-long waiting list for those apartments," Digrigoli said. "There's a great demand for this sort of thing."

The property Digrigoli proposes to build the project on is owned by Richard Dupras, and the building would be adjacent to the Dupras' Liquor Mart.

Planners told Digrigoli the parcel, which now includes the liquor store, would need planning board approval for a subdivision and a 3,600-square-foot parking lot. They added that the selectmen would have to approve a special permit.

The town has has imposed a moratorium on multifamily dwellings because of concerns that the town sewage treatment plant is nearing capacity. Birch said that the moratorium may not affect the development, however, because of a formula written by officials that sets maximum sewage flows from new dwelling units.

Although the development would be in a business zone, Dupras said there were many residential homes in the area. Birch said that because the units would only have one bedroom they would most likely be occupied by single persons or young married couples, and there would be a high turnover of occupants.

Digrigoli said he would consider the board's concerns and present the selectmen with his proposal at a later date.

Lee police start DARE

Advocate 9.5.90 Pg. 13

Lee Police Chief Edward Finnegan told Lee selectmen Tuesday night that starting this month the police department will be sponsoring a Drug Abuse Resistance Education program in the school system.

Finnegan said patrolman Kevin Bartini would be the DARE teacher in Grade 6 starting Sept. 27.

"It's something we've looked at for a while and we think it will be beneficial for the school program," Finnegan said. "Hopefully there will be acceptance and satisfaction with the first program so we can expand it into the lower grades."

Bartini said he received instruction from the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Council on being a DARE instructor at a recent program in West Springfield. DARE programs teach children about the dangers of drugs, and encourage students to resist using them.

In other selectmen's business, the board:

-- Unanimously voted to accept a low bid of $166,422 to purchase a new fire truck from Central States Fire Apparatus. The fire truck is expected to be delivered in the spring.

-- Disputed the federal census figures for the town. Selectmen chairman Joseph Dupont refused to sign a letter stating that the federal census appeared to be accurate. "I didn't receive any census form," Dupont said. "I didn't either," selectman Diane Roosa said.

"If what happened to me is any indication, I don't think it was a very good census. It was a waste of a lot of money," Dupont said. According to the preliminary results of the census, Lee's population dropped from 6,247 in 1980 to 5,796 this year.

-- Learned from Town Counsel Jerome Scully that Chanterwood's sale of cottages in its resort may be improper. The sale of the cottages represents a change of use from a seasonal resort to a year-round occupancy and would require a special permit, Scully said.

-- Postponed a public hearing on a request from Finnegan that the board revoke the liquor license of Marino's Pub for 30 days to Oct. 1. Finnegan said the tavern served liquor after hours despite repeated warnings.

-- Voted 2-1, with selectman William Bean opposing, to sign an agreement with trash hauler Nelson Daley allowing him to use the town transfer station to store containers. In exchange, Daley will pick up the town's garbage from Memorial Hall, the Airoldi Building and other town sites. Bean had requested that Daley remove waste from the schools as well. The Lee Department of Public Works had originally requested Daley pay $1,000 a month for use of the transfer station.

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Lee native finishes 700-mile hike

Pg. 17

Walking the state for church

Advocate 9.5.90

By Eileen Gloster

Douglas Wilcox didn't walk across the state for his health. He did it for the church.

On Sunday, the Lee native finished a 40-day, 700-mile prayer walk across Massachusetts to celebrate the decade of evangelism.

But before Wilcox ended his walk in Sheffield, he stopped off at his own church, St. George's Episcopal Church in Lee, to speak about the meaning of his prayer walk. After the service, Wilcox sat down to a pot luck supper with fellow parishioners and with a handful of people who joined him for part of the walk. During that Friday supper, Wilcox talked about some of the ups and downs of his trek.

"The low point was that I only had a half hour to three-quarters of an hour to be by myself and to be with the Lord. But the high point was I spent the whole rest of the day ministering and sharing with others," Wilcox said.

And reaching out to others is exactly what Wilcox wanted to do during his trip.

The Episcopal Church has joined with other churches in declaring the 90s as the decade of evangelism. And like evangelists of old, Wilcox walked from town to town, parish to parish, stopping to preach at his diocese's 69 parishes and to the travelers and townfolk he met along the way.

He met many along the winding journey which began in the southeastern town of Millville, and took him through Worcester, Springfield, Greenfield and Northampton, before finally leading him home to the Berkshires.

All told, Wilcox said about 500 people joined him at various times to walk a portion of the trail.

A natural hiker

Combining hiking with preaching was natural for Wilcox who has already hiked the entire Appalachian Trail, which stretches from Georgia to Maine.

But although he is an experienced hiker, Wilcox managed to schedule himself some hideous hikes. After hiking all day to reach St. Paul's parish in Otis, Wilcox realized he was supposed to speak in Dalton the next morning. So after his talk and a 30-minute rest, Wilcox put his pack on his back and began the 32-mile hike to Dalton.

"I had blood blisters the size of a grape," Wilcox said. "And the mosquitoes were not a pleasant welcoming committee."

But during that night-time hike over lonely mountain roads, Wilcox had more than mosquitoes to worry about. It is possible, he said, that a car's windshield may have saved his life. Wilcox had just come around a bend in the road when he saw several police cars. A few minutes earlier, Wilcox explained, a car had come around the same bend and someone standing on a nearby porch had shot at it.

No one was hurt, he said, but the windshield was shattered. Wilcox remarked that if he had come around the bend first, no windshield would have protected him. "There were always angels ahead of me," he said.

But the most important parts of his trip were when he was ministering to others, he said. "It's to fulfill God's purpose for mankind, to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, especially to the needy and neglected."

On Tuesday, when asked how he felt now that trip was over, Wilcox said, "I had kind of mixed emotions.

"I was happy that I'd be coming home, I could see it was an ending for the Evangelism prayer walk, but from what everybody said in the journal I kept, it was the beginning for many individuals and parishes. I provided the spark for them to look forward to this decade of Evangelism."

After finishing his walk on Sunday, Wilcox spent Monday with his family and on Tuesday returned to work at the Paperdilly Office Company he owns with his wife Sally.

On Sunday, Sept. 9 all parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts are invited to join a celebration with Bishop Andrew Wissemann at Bement Camp and Conference Center in Charleton Depot., Mass., near Sturbridge. The celebration will begin at 4 p.m. with a service that will be followed by a barbecue.

Mead offers incentives to teachers

Eagle 9.5.90 Pg. B1

By Rose Foley
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Mead Corp. is offering grants and awards to teachers in the Lee school district as incentives to improve the teaching of skills that graduates need to succeed in a global marketplace.

The Education Initiative, as it is called, is offered by Mead Corp. Specialty Paper Division as part of a nationwide program at various Mead divisions; said Scott M. Hollander, director of human resources at the Lee plant.

About $500,000 has been earmarked for the program this year by its sponsor, the Mead Corp. Foundation, he said.

Hollander, who spoke yesterday to about 80 teachers at an informational meeting at Lee High School, said the program is aimed at students not only at the high school level, but as young as kindergarten age. Pupils in Otis and Tyringham who attend Lee schools would also benefit from the plan.

He said the multifaceted program would allow the awarding of up to $5,000 for teacher initiative grants and as much as $10,000 for community excellence in education grants this school year.

"Mead is concerned, like a number of other corporations — as you are — about getting quality education back into the schools," he said, adding that the most critical need is good thinking skills to keep up with ever-changing technology.

Employee training

Hollander said that, in Lee, Mead spent more than $150,000 to train its employees — or associates, as the company calls them — in up-to-date skills. This expense is expected to increase.

Potential associates have "less of the critical thinking skills and, in some cases, the reading and math skills that are necessary to compete in the global marketplace," he said.

He said input is needed from teachers, who are to present proposals for the program aimed at matching skills with job requirements.

Principal Richard T. Salinetti said administrators at Lee High will review the proposals from teachers who want to take part.

The program includes the following:

► Initiative grants that would award up to $5,000 in $500 amounts to teachers who propose new classroom ideas.

► An award of $1,000 in recognition of excellence in teaching to meet specific objectives for student performance. It would be presented at the end of the school year to a teacher, who would then direct the money back to a warranted program at the school.

► A community excellence in education grant that would be awarded by the foundation for a large purchase, such as lab equipment or computers. "Anything more than $10,000 might be a little too high," said Hollander.

► Windows on the World, an exchange program that would allow teachers to go into the workplace and Mead employees to go into the classroom. Hollander said there is a limit of $500 for each project if special equipment is needed.

Salinetti said Mead associates already have taught units of environmental science, chemistry and business.

"This gives us practical information about what students should know," he said.

Hollander said the first Education Initiative was started about a year ago at corporate headquarters in Dayton, Ohio.

Lee, garbage hauler reach compromise

Eagle 9.5.90 Pg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — After six months of negotiation, the Selectmen and refuse hauler Nelson L. Daley last night hammered out the final details of a one-year contract to enable Daley to use the town transfer station.

The final problem that was disposed of last night was Daley's rental fee. Under the solution reached, Daley will provide extra work for the town at no charge in return for free use of the transfer station.

Compromises debated

Two weeks ago, Daley proposed a fee of $100 monthly. This differed considerably from a recommendation from the town's Department of Public Works, which suggested a fee of $1,000 monthly.

Last night, several compromises were offered. Selectman William D. Bean, who had backed the $1,000-per-month figure, suggested Daley could pay the lower fee if he also picked up all the trash from the town buildings, the street baskets, playgrounds and both schools.

Daley was not comfortable with that, saying the schools generated a lot of garbage and that he would lose money if he had to pick it up for free. He added he would be willing to pick up the garbage for the town buildings, street baskets and playgrounds in lieu of a fee.

"I think it should be one or the other," he said.

Daley also said the town was under the misconception that once he signed a contract, he would begin picking up containers of demolition debris from throughout South Berkshire County. That was not true, he said.

"I have one box, maybe two, outside Lee," he said. "Everybody thinks if you give me this contract I'll be trucking stuff in from Chicago. That's not the case. Nothing will change."

He said the volume of debris the transfer station handles will probably go down in the next few months as the building season winds down.

Roosa motion

Selectman Diane P. Roosa then moved that Daley pick up garbage from the town hall, Airoldi Building, street baskets and playgrounds for free in lieu of a fee. Selectman Chairman Joseph DuPont seconded the motion. It passed, 2-1 with Bean against.

In other business, the board:

► Voted to purchase a new fire truck from Central State Fire Apparatus. Central beat out two other companies with a bid of $166,422.

► Voted to contact the state Committee on Local Affairs to urge it to approve enabling legislation so the town could create the position of town administrator.

► Postponed a hearing on after-hours operation with the owner of the Bulls Eye Pub until Oct. 1.

Joel Librizzi / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Michael Zepka, left, and Michael Lavigne of Souliere & Zepka Construction Co. of Adams work on installation of outside stairwell at Town Hall in Lee.

LEE Courier 9.6.90 Pg. 6

Memorial Hall Undergoes Major Renovation

LEE -- Over the next six months, the 113 year old government building, Memorial Hall, will undergo $600,000 in renovations.

Soulier & Zepka Construction of Adams have begun the work, which will include gutting and refurbishment of the building. An elevator, two new staircases, a police dressing area and lockers will be added, and the central communications office will be expanded. The entrance will be relocated to the ground floor, and the town clerk, town accountant, town treasurer, Police Chief will be on the first floor joined by a squad room, lounge and interrogator room. Plans for the second floor have not been firmed up, although the Lee School District has said it is interested in the space.

Funds for the work were approved by voters at town meeting two years ago.

Mead Proposes Grants To Teachers

LEE--In a meeting with more than 80 teachers, Mead Corp. has announced it will be offering incentives to teachers as part of a $500,000 program entitled, the Education Initiative.

The program is part of nationwide effort by the company to help students from kindergarten to high school.

The purpose of the grants and awards is to improve teaching skills so that students can successfully compete in the global marketplace.

Awards will range from $5,000 for teacher grant initiatives to $10,000 for community excellence in education grants.

The Education Initiative program was started a year ago at Mead's corporate headquarters in Ohio.

Scott Hollander, director of Human Resources said Mead has spent over $150,000 in employe training to update skills. The money has been used to improve reading, math and critical thinking skills.

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Campaign '90

Hodgkins, Hull spar over energy costs

LEE — Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, who is running for re-election to his 4th Berkshire District House seat, has criticized his Republican opponent, Bruce Hull, for attacking an increased state tax on energy while "the oil company financing his campaign is charging customers up to 15 percent higher for home heating oil than other companies in the area."

Hodgkins said that his survey of six oil companies indicates that his opponent's family business, Hull Oil, was charging $1.19 per gallon of home heating oil. The other five companies surveyed by Hodgkins, Clifford Oil, Agway, O'Connell Oil, Payless Oil and Mass Energy, charge an average price of $1.04 per gallon.

"While my opponent decries a higher tax on energy, he has never once attended any public hearings, as I have, to fight increasing electric, gas or other utility rate increases," he contended.

Hull said yesterday that the company is not financing his campaign, and added that the report indicating who is will be available Monday.

He also said that the companies in Hodgkins' survey do most of their business in Pittsfield and the central part of the county, not South Berkshire.

"If he is going to continue attacking me, I wish he would attack just me, not the company," Hull said. "The company is not running, I am. Also, Chris Hodgkins has never run a business, so he has no idea what the costs of doing business are. They include taxes and registry fees."

Hull added that he has years of "practical business experience," and noted that a recent report indicated that 93,000 jobs left the state between June 1989 and July 1990.

"What will my opponent do to get those jobs back?" he asked.

Eagle 9.8.90 Pg. B7

Hodgkins begins 'lawn sign blitz'

LEE — Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, a candidate for re-election to his 4th Berkshire District House seat, said that he has begun "a lawn sign blitz" throughout the district, which encompasses 17 towns and more than 500 square miles.

"The signs will be put up and left up for only five days at a time in various neighborhoods," Hodgkins said in a prepared statement. "I believe there's nothing as beautiful as the scenic beauty of the Berkshires, and for that reason the signs will be up in areas for only that amount of time. I'll be taking the signs from neighborhood to neighborhood so as not to proliferate the area with unsightly political advertising. The signs that will be put up are ones that have been recycled from my previous campaigns."

Eagle 9.9.90 Pg. B2

Red tape in Lee

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:—

An Aug. 29 Eagle story [Eagle, Aug. 29] said that the town of Lee is being scoffed by local contractors and homeowners.

If anyone is being scoffed, it's the general public. It's a real mockery what people have to go through to get permission to build or improve property.

I have been watching the town's so-called efficient, sign-off system for the past three years and chuckle when I hear how great it's working.

Before an application is even considered by the building inspector, it is reviewed by 30 different town board members. This does not include the 7 members of the board of appeals. That could mean 30 different interpretations of a single application.

The story says that people are ignoring the laws. Isn't the town itself ignoring the Massachusetts General Law and the state mandated building code? These laws state that the local building inspector has specific control over the implementation of all the rules and regulations dealing with buildings and construction. Yet in Lee you have to get the blessing of 30 lay persons before the building inspector will even look at an application.

When you start forcing regulations that don't meet the intent of the law, it's only a matter of time before people realize that they are being treated unjustly. You have to expect that people will deviate from such a system.

My intent is not to slight the different boards for giving input where it's due, but to caution them that at the present time state statutes are being overlooked in favor of local autonomy. The public knows this and is ready to challenge it in court.

Let the building inspector make the decisions that are his to make and if his ruling is questioned under law, he will respond within 14 days.

EDWARD M. BRIGGS

Lee

Crisis In Kuwait May Involve Local Nurse

Pg. 1

Courier 9.6.90

By Susan Faber

LEE - Just three months ago Leslie Trachier-Daley of Ferncliff Avenue gave birth to a son. Now, because of the recent upheaval in Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, she is facing the possibility of having to leave her baby, Joseph, along with her six-year-old daughter Rachael and her husband Nelson Daley, Jr. in order to aide her country as a nurse and a member of the Army Reserves.

A strong sense of patriotism, instilled over the years she has spent in the service (starting when she was 17 years old and decided to follow in her father's footsteps by enlisting), is what makes it possible for her to contemplate her situation in a positive manner, though not without pain at the possible separation, said Mrs. Daley.

"I have a theory," she told *The Berkshire Courier*, "I've been on the government payroll for 10 years now, and I have received the benefits from it. It has helped pay for my education. And I have this great pride in my country. I love my country. I also love my family very much. But, if my orders were cut to leave tomorrow, I would kiss my husband and children goodbye and leave.

"It would be very hard, especially with my littlest one, but I feel I owe it to my country. I have to defend everything I believe in, and the man next to me."

So far, Mrs. Daley said she is trying to stay optimistic over whether she will be sent to Saudi Arabia and is furthering her nursing studies at Regis College in Weston, using benefits she has earned from the Reserves.

"Right now the only nurses over there (Saudi Arabia) are the volunteers and the ones on active duty. I know several young women who have no families of their own and who jumped at the chance to go there.

"I will go if I am activated, but not by volunteering. My son is just too small," said Mrs. Daley.

However, there is a much stronger possibility that Mrs. Daley will be sent to one of the many bases in the U.S. that are experiencing a shortage of Army nurses because of those who have been called to the middle East. "The enlisted reserves, if activated, would fill in the gaps then," explained Mrs. Daley. "There are still patients who need care and depend on us."

Continued to Page 12

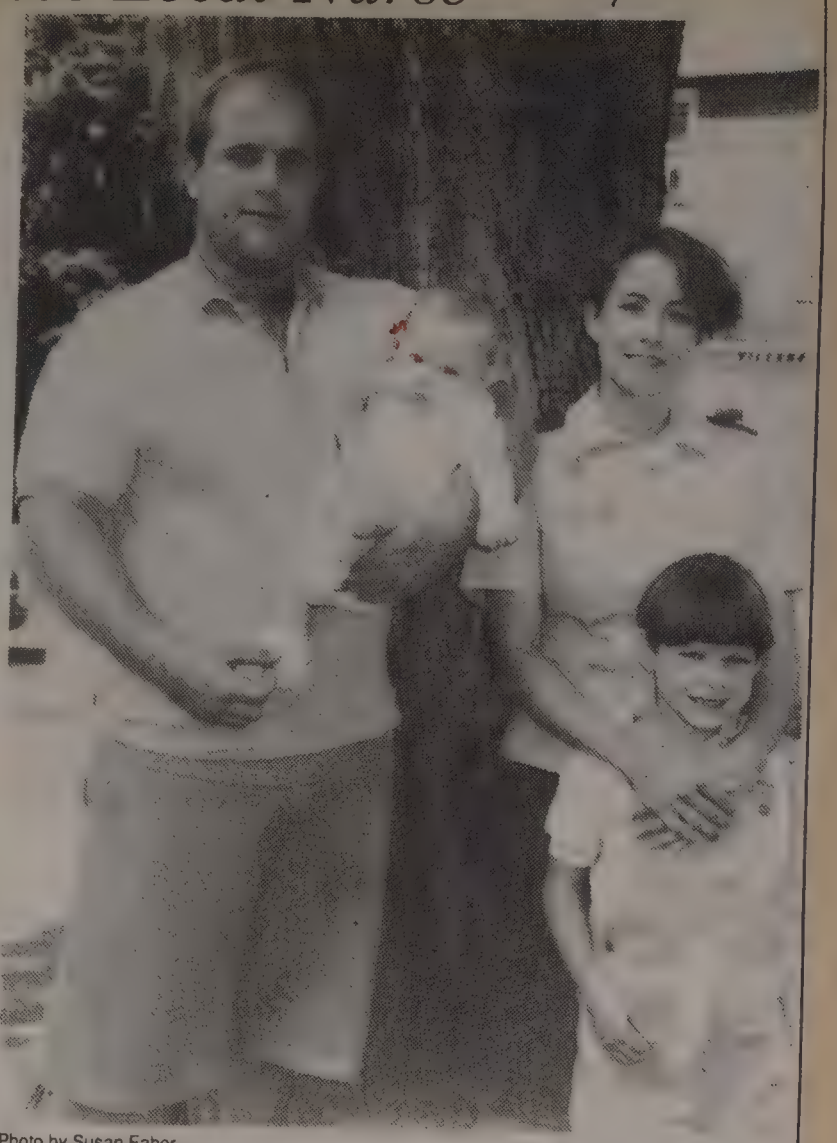

Photo by Susan Faber

Leslie Trachier-Daley stands outside her home with, from left, her husband Nelson Daley Jr., who is holding their three-month-old son Joseph, and six-year-old daughter Rachael. Mrs. Daley is a member of the Army Reserves and is awaiting the possibility of being called up for duty.

Reserves Nurse

Continued from Page

Most of those needy bases are out west, still a far distance from her family.

As a member of a unit whose active status rating is only a 4 out of 5, meaning it would be one of the last called up, Mrs. Daley said she is currently in the process of transferring to a different unit whose status is rated as a 1. The 1's get called in first, according to Mrs. Daley, and this would seriously alter her chances of being activated.

Mrs. Daley added that she has also been considering the possibility of being called in no matter what her status is.

"I'm pretty sure I won't be sent to Saudi Arabia, but part of the calling in consists of experience, ability, job titles, and security clearance. I have held five job titles, have trained in triage and have been in the service for ten years.

"Look at it this way, why would they take an R.N. (Registered Nurse) right out of college when you have someone with my experience?"

"There is a key difference between the way military nurses and civilian nurses are trained in treatment processes. Military nurses have to be triage nurses, not just floor nurses.

"Triage means immediate action or knowledge. It means first aid, but not the type civilians usually associate with first aid. In the military it means dealing with major wounds. For instance, things blow up in the heat - and it is definitely hot over there."

As for the heat in the Middle East, Mrs. Daley said it has been the cause of the most prevalent medical problem afflicting soldiers stationed in the desert there.

"Just treating heatstroke or heat exhaustion over there would be different than what a civilian nurse would have been taught. You are taught to give them a drink of water. But what if they can't drink? Then you give them an I.V. But what if there is no I.V. available in the middle of a desert? Well, we learned to pour water over the body and to cover it to hold the moisture in.

"I've also been trained how to use body mechanics to move someone a lot larger than me, so I can get them out of the sun if possible."

"We are trained to be totally autonomous, but within the military framework. I can only compare it to EMT's and paramedics. I have nothing but respect for them."

As far as the reserves are concerned, Mrs. Daley said the situation is now labeled a crisis.

"Over the next three months, 25,000 Army reservists will be activated, and whenever we start getting activated we

Marijuana sentence

Eagle 9.6.90

To the Editor of THE EAGLE:- Pg. 4A

Let's stop being bleeding hearts. The sentence of the two Great Barrington youths to two years in jail for possession of marijuana within 1,000 yards of a school is justified [Eagle, Aug. 28].

With serving their time, they should be required, under close supervision, to work at either the Doyle or McGee detox centers or in various schools throughout the county, or as hospital orderlies in emergency rooms to witness what happens to people who take drug overdoses.

Anyone who thinks pot is a harmless drug is sadly mistaken. As the body develops a tolerance it will crave a bigger bang and coke, heroine, opium, hashish and others are the next step.

Let's stop bleeding for criminals and start thinking about those who make up the majority of society, including our children.

JOHN R. COPELAND

Lee

DARE program offered in Lee

Lee 9.1.90

LEE – Police Chief Edward J. Finnegan has announced that his department will launch a Drug Abuse Resistance Education program at the Central School beginning Sept. 27.

The program, commonly called DARE, will be presented to 6th grade students at the school. Finnegan said police officer Kevin Bartini will administer the program, which seeks to educate pre-high school students about the dangers of drug use.

Bartini, Finnegan said, took courses at the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Council in West Springfield to qualify him to teach the course.

The Lee Parent-Teacher's Organization is funding the program, Finnegan said. Depending on the acceptance of the program, he said, similar instruction may be offered to students in the lower grades in the future.

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Lee girls rule the South; tossup in North

Eagle 9.9.90 Pg. C3

By Brian Sullivan
Berkshire Eagle Staff

The 1990 Berkshire County girls' soccer league forecast reads like a weather map. In the Southern Division, the situation is very clear. In the Northern Division, however, everything's cloudy and nothing is clear. The coaches do agree that the division champion may not be crowned until the last week of the season.

Lee won last year's Southern Division (16-0), Berkshire County and Western Mass. Division 2 championship before advancing to the state final where they were defeated 2-0 by Masconomet. Wildcats coach Sally Maish isn't sure whether this year's team can duplicate that success, but does feel confident about her chances for a division and county title.

"The one thing we've talked about this year is that last year is over," Maish said. "It was a wonderful season but it's done."

If there is a challenger to Lee in the division, no one knows what team it will be. Lenox, which finished second, has a new system under rookie coach Sue Wyman, while a young Mount Everett team will need to mature quickly if it hopes to better last season's third-place finish.

St. Joseph's and Drury are improved, but are coming off sub-.500 seasons. McCann Tech was winless last year and has dropped its varsity program for junior varsity status.

The Northern Divison race could be a real fire drill. Only six points separated the top four teams last year, and the same is being predicted for this season. Taconic and Hoosac Valley, which finished fifth and sixth respectively last year, are improved, adding another exciting element to the league race.

"A couple of goals last year was the difference between first and third place," said Pittsfield's Pat West, whose team lost 2-1 to Lee in the county championship game.

Girls' Soccer

Final 1989 Standings

NORTHERN DIVISION
(overall records in parentheses)

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsfield (12-5-1)	12	3	1	25	60	12
Wahcon. (11-5-1)	11	4	1	23	58	18
Greylock (9-5-4)	8	4	4	20	37	22
Monument (9-5-3)	8	5	3	19	29	18
Taconic (3-11-2)	3	11	2	8	34	44
Hoosac (3-12-1)	3	12	1	7	10	46

SOUTHERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Lee (20-1-0)	16	0	0	32	118	10
Lenox (9-5-3)	9	4	3	21	57	22
Everett (8-6-3)	8	5	3	19	43	24
St. Joe's (6-10-1)	6	10	0	12	36	59
Hoosac (1-14-0)	1	13	0	2	14	67
Drury (3-13-0)	3	13	0	6	18	60
McCann (0-16-0)	0	16	0	0	5	150

Other new coaches in the league this year include Ray Acosta at Drury and Mike Kemp at Hoosac Valley. One other change has Monument playing its home games at the Village School on Route 102 in West Stockbridge.

NORTHERN DIVISION

PITTSFIELD HIGH — Generals coach Pat West has one nagging problem to solve if his team is going to defend its Northern Division title.

"My big problem is replacing Meri-Beth Hurley in front of a goalie who has never played a varsity game," West said.

Hurley, who won Berkshire County co-MVP honors last year at sweeper, will be replaced by four-year senior starter Anne Rajotte.

"Anne's good," West said. "I have confidence in her."

Debbie Munger, a first-year senior player, should open in goal.

The Generals' forward line will be potent. Senior Stephanie Spooner (20 goals), an All-Berkshire selection, and junior Jen Maloney (14 goals) were the third and fifth leading scorers in league play last year.

Senior Molly Donovan and junior Meghan Gibson will key the halfback position while senior Liz Nixon is expected lead fullback candidates.

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle S

It was all smiles and hugs last year for Lee soccer teammates Kate Cinella, facing camera Jessie McManmon (5), Brenda Dupras, left, and Sharon Heath, right, as the Wildcats won Western Mass. tournament game. All four return to help Lee defend its county and Wester Mass. titles this season.

WAHCONAH — The Warriors graduated three All-Berkshire players but still bring a wealth of talent back for this year's campaign.

Coach Bob Powell will drop his platoon goalie system that worked last year and give senior tricaptain Carolyn Beaulieu the full-time roll this year. Senior tricaptains Carol Meichner and Kim Thayer hold down backfield spots while seniors Erin Broderick and Jenny Ryan are key midfielders

The front line does not have a senior. But juniors DeAnna Young, Meghan Farrell, Molly West and Melissa Johnson and sophomore Erin Pero should all make contributions.

MOUNT GREYLOCK — The Mounties have a nice mix of ex-

SOCCER, continued on C8

Lee's legal dilemma

Faced with dueling town boards, Lee officials are unsure how the Lee Zoning Board of Appeals should defend itself in a lawsuit against the board filed by the Lee selectmen and building inspector. Town Counsel Jerome Scully will represent the selectmen but ZBA chairman George Frulla has written the selectmen asking the board who will represent the ZBA. The selectmen and building inspector Robert Lester have appealed a variance granted by the ZBA to Berkshire Community Development Trust for a five-lot development.

"This conflict of opinion necessitates expenses for legal representation for the ZBA," Frulla wrote. "Unfortunately, the only winners will be lawyers, and the losers will be the taxpayers because of the expense."

Lee selectmen said they believe Scully will either select an attorney from his own firm or another company to represent the ZBA in the case.

Every man, woman and child counts

Pg. 4

Advocate 9.12.90

U.S. Rep. Silvio O. Conte, R-Pittsfield, is calling on towns to stand up and be counted for the 1990 federal census. Conte's concern is that Massachusetts may lose a congressional seat because of a decrease in population. If any towns believe they have been undercounted, Conte says the selectmen should appeal the count.

"The prospect of losing a congressional seat and the importance of preserving funding for important federal programs make this year's census extremely important to citizens of Massachusetts," Conte wrote the Lee selectmen.

Officials in Lee, Lenox and Lanesboro have said the federal census missed several residents in their respective towns including Lenox Town Clerk Lorita Bosworth and Lee selectmen chairman Joseph Dupont and Lee selectman Diane Roosa.

From pg 5

The Monument Mountain girls, coming off their own difficult and unexpected loss in the Western Mass. tournament, showed the spirit that made them 63-4 champions during their high school careers. The day before the Lee girls played in the state finals, Cathleen Miller and Dawn Gilmore traveled to Lee High to bring a banner of good wishes to their league competitors, letting the Wildcats know the Monument team was behind them all the way — a pretty big gesture from teen-age athletes still dealing with their own disappointment.

On the heels of the Monument Mountain goodwill visit was another moving display by Lee's Seekonk opponent at the state finals. Just minutes after their defeat in the Worcester Centrum, the entire Seekonk team raised a large white paper banner for their loyal fans and paraded it across the floor. It read: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. Everyone in the Centrum rose in a standing ovation for such a display of caring and pride in an obvious moment of sadness.

Lee, Monument Mountain, McCann and Seekonk all raised winning out of losing in different ways. All delivered powerful messages about the character of the teen-agers around us.

Those girls represent our leaders of tomorrow. There are a lot of winners out there right now.

Page 5

Laurie Forfa, a Lee resident, is vice president for nursing at North Adams Regional Hospital.

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Educators can't afford to teach in south Berkshire

Cite low salaries and expensive housing

By Erik Bruun

When Lee School Superintendent Henry Zukowski interviewed candidates for a teaching position last year he had one person who was willing to commute 2 hours from eastern Massachusetts to take the job rather than move to the Berkshires.

Although the person did not get the job, the anecdote illustrates an issue that school superintendents throughout south county say they are having to cope with: Salaries for school workers are too low and housing costs are too high to attract and retain candidates from outside the area.

"I've found it very difficult to keep applicants interested in coming to the district after they've seen how much the housing costs," Zukowski says. "When one thinks that administrators with their salaries are finding it hard to find housing then you see how bad it is."

Several school administrators hired from outside the area in Lenox and the Berkshire Hills Regional School District (Great Barrington, Stockbridge and West Stockbridge) have recently left the area after a few years.

At Berkshire Hills, two principals at the Stockbridge-West Stockbridge elementary schools and former school superintendent Edward Sakal resigned from their jobs in part because of problems they had in buying homes they could afford. In Lenox, School Superintendent Roland Miller says former Lenox Memorial High School assistant principal Ed Greene had a hard time finding housing in town. Greene took a job three weeks ago in Chatanooga, Tenn.

"This is a very attractive area to live in," Miller says. "But when people get here and see how much it costs to live here they sometimes have second thoughts."

As a result, school districts such as Berkshire Hills have been hiring people who are already established in the county.

Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Superintendent Thomas A. Consolati says he has not had a problem with recent hires leaving mainly because there has been very little turnover in the district in the last several years. But, he adds, that compared to other regions, school salaries are relatively modest in Berkshire County. "I will say that administrators' pay in this area is definitely not attractive to competent administrators in our state and other states because they are lower," Consolati says.

The typical pay for principals in the four south county school district is in the $38,000 to $45,000 range. School superintendents tend to be closer to the $60,000 range. While the salaries may be low compared to other districts, they are well above average for the area. Teachers' starting pay is usually between $18,000 and $20,000.

Median housing prices in south county are typically between $130,000 and $150,000 with many houses selling for well over $200,000.

"I would say it is happening in education as a whole and for almost everybody around here," Zukowski says of the gap between salaries and housing prices. "Any average person wants to live in his own home. When I got married you could but a good house for $15,000 to $25,000. It cost twice what the top teacher's salary was. Now it would cost six times a top-teacher's salary for the same house."

Selectmen say Lee may renumber houses and crack down on condo-owner

The brief tempest over the U.S. Postal Service's renumbering of rural routes in Lee has prompted the Lee selectmen to consider renumbering all homes in town.

Responding to complaints that the post office revamped its number system in town without notifying customers, five federal postal officials attended Monday's selectmen's meeting to explain the action.

"If the town is not going to number its houses, the postal service has to go back and renumber the houses in an orderly sequence when we have growth such as we've seen in Lee," said John Basilie, director of marketing and communications for the Springfield division of the U.S. Postal Service.

Basilie suggested that the town renumber its houses not only for the convenience of the U.S. Postal Service but also for health and safety reasons. With a systematic numbering of homes it would simplify emergency responses for house calls.

"The post office does not number houses. That is something the town must do," he said. Basilie added that the post office would assist Lee in numbering its houses -- a process that several towns such as Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Adams and Cheshire have recently undertaken or completed.

Selectmen chairman Joseph Dupont, who said he was caught unaware by the change in numbers, said the town may have to number its houses. The lack of house numbers, he said, led to problems with the federal census' count of Lee residents.

Several years ago the town appropriated money to number houses but town officials said a committee was never appointed to do the work. The selectmen said they would look into activating that committee.

In other business, the selectmen:

-- Pledged they would crack down on Foxhollow condominium owners Richard Cohen and Howard Eisler for allegedly continuing to subdivide and double-rent their condominium unit despite a court order forbidding them to do so. Last year, the town brought several Foxhollow condominium owners to court to prevent the division of units in violation of the development's special permit. A District Court judge found sufficient facts to warrant guilty findings but continued the case without a finding on the condition that the property owners come to an agreement with the town.

While most owners complied with the judges's order, a group of condominium owners and Building Inspector Robert Lester told the selectmen that Cohen and Eisler have continued the practice of renting their unit for short periods of time, bringing in a tidy sum of $60,000 to $80,000 a year. "We like the community very well but what we're finding in our midst is a boarding house," said Irving Kronenberg.

Selectman William Bean suggested the town revoke the unit's certificate of occupancy and look into bringing the issue back into court. The selectmen said they would investigate the issue further.

Condo owners ask Lee board for help

Eagle 9.11.98 Pg. B4

By D.R. Bahlman
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — Saying that they didn't know where else to turn, a group of Foxhollow condominium owners told the Selectmen last night that two of their neighbors have subdivided their unit into two parts for rent, action that the group says is contrary to a District Court judge's order.

"We have in our midst a rooming house," said Irving Kronenberg, a member of the Lakeside Condominium Trust.

Ronald Gilbert, spokesman for the group, said that the town took the unit's owners, Richard Cohen and Howard Eisler, to District Court in August 1989 on a complaint regarding subdivision of the unit. Gilbert said the judge found sufficient facts to warrant a guilty verdict, but continued the case for three months until Cohen and Eisler could reach an agreement with the town "ensuring that the units will not be subdivided and rented."

"It's been a year, and nothing has been done," Gilbert said, adding that he was told by Jerome J. Scully, the town's lawyer, that the same judge who heard the original case would have to make a final disposition. The problem, said Gilbert, is that the judge — whose name he could not recall — has not returned to the Southern Berkshire District Court bench since August 1989 and is not listed on the docket for this month.

"He was a substitute judge," Gilbert said.

Other members of the condominium trust said that the unit is often used for short stays by a stream of strangers, and Kronenberg said that the rents charged by Cohen and Eisler net the pair $70,000 to $80,000 per year.

Selectman William Bean suggested that Building Inspector Robert Lester "pull the certificate of occupancy" for the Cohen-Eisler unit until the matter is cleared up. Later, the Selectmen agreed to consult Scully about what to do.

In another matter, officials of the U.S. Postal Service recommended that the town undertake a house-numbering project.

The postal officials were brought to the meeting by Lee Postmaster William Matthews, who had been notified by the Selectmen of a complaint by a resident of a rural route that the number of his mailbox was being changed for the second time in three years, rendering his printed stationery useless.

John Basile, director of marketing and communications in the Postal Service's Springfield office, said that the renumbering, particularly on rural routes, becomes necesssary when a town grows and new houses are built.

"We have to have some logic to the carriers' order of delivery," he said, adding that there are fewer mail carriers who are intimately familiar with particular towns and know from long experience where mail should be delivered.

Several people at the meeting openly bemoaned the loss of such personal service, but Basile noted that the volume of mail has grown by 15 percent during each of the past five years and automation is

► Asked Louis DiGrigoli and Richard Dupras to provide more detailed drawings of their proposed 12-unit apartment building before considering granting a special permit. The men want to build the project on Canal Street. They said the one-bedroom "efficiency" apartments would carry reasonable rents. DiGrigoli said he wanted the board's preliminary approval of the project "before I invest 15 cents."

► Voted unanimously to reappoint James A. Loring as a full-time police officer at $463 per week, the rate paid to a patrolman with one year of service. Loring left the force about a year ago to pursue another career.

Police battle drugs in Lenox, Lee classrooms: Change of attitudes before high school is goal

Children encounter cocaine, marijuana at young age, police say

By Erik Bruun

Lenox Police Chief David Berkel is taking the battle against drugs into the classroom.

"We're certainly not going to win the war on drugs on the enforcement or court level," Berkel says. "The only way we're going to win is through a change of attitude and the way to do that is through the schools." Starting this week, Berkel will be the Drug Abuse Resistance Education instructor for Grade 5 Lenox students.

Both Berkel and Lee Police Chief Edward Finnegan are working with their respective towns' school systems this year to initiate the DARE program. In Lee, patrolman William Bartini is the DARE officer and will work with Grade 6 students.

"If there's any possibility to approach youngsters regarding drugs, that is the age," Lee School Superintendent Henry Zukowski says. "If you try any program at the high school, the kids think they are too sophisticated and they don't pay any attention."

In both Lenox and Lee, officials say drugs have become a part of students' lives. Zukowski says he does not know how prevalent drugs are but says substance abuse is a problem in the high schools.

Unlike yesteryear when many drugs were unknown to children, Berkel says children now know what marijuana and cocaine are at very young ages.

"They see it on television and they hear about it everywhere," he says. "When I was growing up you just didn't know about things like cocaine. It's not like that anymore. I'm not saying kids are taking drugs in the sixth and seventh grades but that's when they first get exposed to it.

"That's the age when girls start to wear makeup and brush their hair and really care about what they look like. Boys start taking showers and maybe deodorant. They're realizing that they're changing and they want to grow up but they don't have the tools to grow up," he says.

As a DARE officer, Berkel says he will work with students on ways to build self-esteem and methods to avoid succumbing to peer pressure to use drugs. He will teach 45-minute classes once a week for 17 weeks. He already taught a few DARE classes at the end of the school year in the spring.

> ***"Just saying no isn't going to cut it. You've got to give them ways to say no. They have to know there's support for them out there."***

"What's amazing is what kids will tell you in a very short time," Berkel says. "These kids still have the image of a police officer as a knight in shining armor and you're going to protect them. It's really something."

DARE officers work with children not only to teach them about the dangers of drugs but also ways to resist using drugs. Students act out different scenarios on how to avoid getting into situations where they would be pressured into taking drugs.

"Just saying no isn't going to cut it," Berkel says. "You've got to give them ways to say no. They have to know there's support for them out there."

Berkel took a course earlier this year on the DARE program . "If the funds could be made available then I think every officer should go through the two-week program," Berkel says. "It gives excellent training in how to deal with people and how to make them aware of educating youths on the pitfalls of substance abuse."

Combating drug use at an early age -- *Beginning this week, Lenox Police Chief David Berkel will be the Drug Abuse Resistance Education instructor for Grade 5 Lenox students. (Photo by Erik Bruun)*

Berkel says he decided to be the DARE instructor when he learned that the Lenox School Committee was interested in starting the DARE program. Because the Lenox Police Department is relatively small with eight patrolmen, Berkel says it made sense for him to be the DARE officer as he works a day schedule.

As a police officer who normally responds to situations such as motor vehicle accidents or investigations of events that have already occurred, Berkel says he is looking forward to taking a more active role in preventing problems rather than reacting to them.

"You feel like you're doing something beneficial," he says. "That's the most satisfying thing because in most cases a policeman's reacting to something. Here, you're doing something that is pro-active."

In Berkshire County, DARE programs have been started in Adams, Great Barrington, Lanesboro, North Adams and Pittsfield as ways to combat drug use at an early age. If the Lee and Lenox programs are successful, both Finnegan and Berkel say they hope to expand it to the lower grades with occasional classes.

On Saturday, the Lenox Police Department, The SOUTH ADVOCATE and WBEC FM 105.5 radio station is sponsoring a concert to raise money for the Lenox DARE program.

15 Berkshire students are Merit semifinalists

Pg. B1 Eagle 9.13.90

■ **QUALIFY,** from B1

Nikesh S. Parekh, who is president of the National Honor Society. He is class treasurer, a student council representative and served as co-chairman of the Save Our Schools Committee last year. He participates in track, downhill skiing, soccer, volleyball, and has been a volunteer for the Special Olympics.

Nancy W. Ringer, who is a member of the basketball and softball teams. She volunteers as a basketball coach at the Catholic Youth Center, and has also worked as a volunteer in the Crosby School's special-education summer school program.

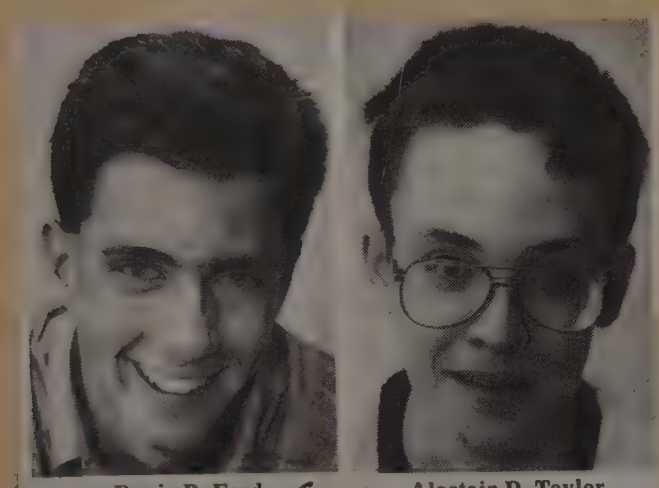
Lisa J. Wangsness, who serves as secretary of the National Honor Society and the French Club and is co-captain of the soccer cheerleading squad. She is on the Student Council and has served as a counselor at a summer camp for physically and mentally handicapped children. She has won prizes for creative writing.

Gayle C. Vuillemot, who is a member of the quiz team, the academic decathlon team, Knowledge Masters, and the math league. She received the National Honor Society's bronze medal in language and literature at the Academic Decathlon.

Mount Greylock students named as semifinalists are **Elizabeth H. Chang** and **Diana M. Sabot.**

Chang is a junior class adviser, a member of the National Honor Society and attended the Close-Up government seminar in Washington, D.C. She is a member of the Junior Classical League and the Drama Club, and has served as co-editor for The Gemini, the student literary magazine. She has been a contributor to that publication and to The Echo, the student newspaper. An All-Western Mass. District clarinetist, she is a member of the symphonic band, the school's wind ensemble, and the pit orchestra. She also has worked on the technical crew on musicals.

Sabot is also a member of the National Honor Society. She has been a Western Mass. French



Denis B. Ford 9.13.90 Alastair D. Taylor

Eagle Pg. B1

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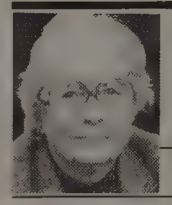
Lee restaurant gets a new chef on short notice



Lee Leahy Stanfield

Just Looking

LANESBORO

If you run a small restaurant with one chef, you'd better be able to cook. Chefs can be sensitive individuals easily offended. They are apt to quit in high dudgeon if crossed.

Take the case of Richard Rice of The Place in Lee. His chef quit the day after the Fourth of July. Richard, with an inn full of guests and a full dining room, had to take over both the cooking and the worrying about where to find another chef.

Fortunately, he had a waitress, Joanne Ward, who had a friend who was working at a restaurant in Boston, a Berkshire native who wanted to come back home. But Joanne's friend had to give two weeks' notice, so Richard worked practically around the clock for two weeks. Although his "mama," Doris Rice, visited from Mississippi to teach Richard how to make the Mississippi Apple Cake, Richard hadn't had time to make it. "I'll get it right now," he declared.

Richard's new chef, Patrick O'Keefe, from the Cottonwood Cafe of Boston, has set up a menu that pleases Richard, with prices ranging from $11.95 to $16.95. The restaurant no longer serves lunch. Dinner service begins at 5. When I expressed concern about another restaurant eliminating lunches, Richard said, "You could come for dinner and still get home before dark." We are more apt to go for Sunday brunch, an a la carte meal. The restaurant is open seven days a week.

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We *are* concerned about the number of fine restaurants that no longer serve lunch. We went from The Place to Brushwood Chef on the Pittsfield-Lenox Road the day we discovered Richard was no longer serving lunch. It's lovely, with brick walls, beamed ceiling, Dutch doors with huge black iron hinges, peach-colored tablecloths, candles, fresh flowers and stemware on the tables.

When we had eaten there previously, it had been very busy. This time, several tables were empty. Among those present were Eleanor Ziemba Pannesco and Irene Robitaille. I hadn't seen Eleanor in a long time. She reminded me that we both used to live on Peck's Road. That was more than 30 years ago.

We talked with Sheri van den Hoek, owner of the restaurant with her husband, Ari. She said business has fallen off some, but they were going to serve lunches through September and see how it goes. If business warrants it, they will serve lunches through October. At present they are open for lunch and dinner six days a week, closed on Wednesdays.

It's not only the beauty of the building (the oldest house in Lenox, built in the 1750s) that we enjoy, but also the food. Tom and I had sauteed shrimp and scallops on pepper pasta with Brushwood Chef garlic sauce, $8.95 — luscious. Hot, freshly baked bread was served with our meal.

Curiosity determined the dessert I chose, a Boomer's Oogie. I had read in The Eagle where Jayne Church of Pittsfield hoped to sell shares of her fledgling Boomer's Oogies (a confection something like truffles, cookies or brownies) business to investors in an effort to raise the capital to expand the enterprise.

My Oogie, $2.75, was somewhat like a thickly frosted brownie with whipped cream on the side — delicious. Coffee was $1, mixed drinks $3.25. Margaret Wheeler, who has been with Brushwood since March, was our pleasant, accommodating waitress.

•

We feel like part of the family at the Morgan House. For instance waitress Peggy Mooney Hodgkins confided in us that she was giving a brunch for her coworker Barbara Thompson's daughter, Lisa, in honor of her marriage to John Kelley on Sept. 28. Peggy even gave us the recipe for Spinach Squares that she was planning to make for the occasion.

Ann Quirk's niece and her husband, Beth and Bill Orford, are the owners of the Morgan House. Bill gave Annie a hug when we arrived recently. We sometimes see Annie's brother-in-law and wife, Gene and Dina Quirk, there. We lunch at the Morgan House often, as there are several items on the menu that are heart safe and are so marked on the menu.

Annie had creamed broccoli and cheddar cheese soup, $1.50. Tom had baked stuffed shrimp, $10.95, and I, broiled swordfish, $7.95. A little loaf of fresh, warm bread came with our meals. Coffee was $1. Annie and I had hot fudge sundaes. Bart and Mary Hendricks and Vera Fielding were at an adjacent table. Bart wanted to know if we thought he would like a sundae. We assured him that he would. He is fond of sweets.

The spinach recipe is good enough to share. It's different and easy. "If you use it, be sure to say that it is Barbara Tart's recipe," said Peggy.

Spinach Squares

3 eggs
¼ to ⅓ cup butter or margarine
1 cup flour
1 cup milk
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
¾ to 1 pound Monterey Jack grated cheese
3 10-ounce packages frozen chopped spinach

Defrost and squeeze all water from spinach. Melt butter in a 9-by-13-inch pan in oven. Meanwhile, beat eggs in a large bowl. Add flour, salt, milk and baking powder. Stir in cheese and spinach. Mix well. Pour over the butter in pan. Bake 40 minutes at 350 degrees. Cool for 30 minutes before cutting into squares.

Avoid disappointment:
Clue The Eagle in early on your engagement and wedding plans. Forms and instructions available at The Eagle Mall Office and The Eagle Office, Pittsfield. Ask us to mail you the forms.

LEE Berk. Courier Eg. 17 9.13.90

Mead Honors Veterans

LEE -- Mead Specialty Paper Division employes M.H. Bradbury and H.A. Lawrence, both veterans of World War II, presented a 30 by 18-inch plaque commemorating all Hurlbut employe veterans to Commander Joseph Scapin of the Lee VFW Post Home on Pleasant Street during ceremonies Tuesday.

The Honor Roll plaque formerly hung in Mead's Willow Mill and listed the names of all employes who served during the war. Among them is Captain James Burt, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Police To Offer DARE Program

LEE -- The police department has announced it will begin a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program at the Central School beginning Sept. 27.

Chief Edward Finnegan said sixth graders will receive the course, to be given by Officer Kevin Bartini.

Officer Bartini, Chief Finnegan said, has been certified by the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Council in West Springfield to teach the course.

The Parent Teachers Organization will pay the costs of the course, Chief Finnegan said. A decision on whether to offer DARE instruction to lower grades will be made after the sixth grade effort is analysed, he said.

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Hodgkins chides Hull over CLT support

Eagle Pg. B8 9.15.90

LEE — Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins, D-Lee, who is seeking re-election to his 4th Berkshire District seat in November, has accused his Republican challenger, Bruce C. Hull, of engaging in "double talk."

According to Hodgkins, Hull last week received the endorsement of Citizens for Limited Taxation, sponsors of referendum Question 3 on the November ballot. If Question 3 passes, state taxes and fees would be rolled back to 1988 levels.

"Last week, Mr. Hull said he has concerns about industry paying 5 percent more for energy costs," Hodgkins said in a prepared statement. "But at the same time he voices those concerns, his family's oil company, Hull Oil Co., is charging 15 percent more for oil than other oil companies in Southern Berkshire County.

"I thought that this was maybe just one instance of the old adage, 'Do as I do, not as I say,' but this week Mr. Hull was endorsed by ... CLT while simultaneously saying he cares for the elderly, education and local aid.... Perhaps my opponent would like to tell the parents of children in our local public schools, local recipients of elderly home care, health care or any other services, that he would like to cut those services even further — because that's what Question 3 will do."

Hodgkins also said Hull "has tried to publicly hide [the CLT] endorsement because he knows it is totally irresponsible."

Thursday, Hull denied that he has attempted to conceal the endorsement.

"What the CLT petition will do is force state government to look at more efficient ways of spending money," he said, adding that Hodgkins' assertion that passage of Question 3 will negatively affect social services is untrue.

"What it [Question 3] requires is zero-based budgeting — each agency must justify its budget instead of just rolling it over from the previous year," Hull said. "It does not cut from social services ... it requires each authority to raise its fees to cover its expenses."

Lee officials, teens at odds on loitering charges

Eagle 9.16.90 Pg. B1

By Steve Moore
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — The acting chief of police said yesterday he will meet tomorrow night with the Selectmen and a group of teen-agers to try and solve the ancient problem of Nothing to Do.

Acting Chief Henry Smachetti met informally with the 10 youths in front of the courthouse after 15 or 20 minutes of placard-carrying protest yesterday afternoon.

At issue was a Friday night incident in which three teen-agers were arrested and charged with violating anti-loitering bylaws.

Smachetti said the arrests were made because the three refused to leave the courthouse steps despite being asked at least seven times by the night officer.

Another 14 youths dispersed, he said, but not before being asked several times.

Arrested were Jason Morrison, 17, of Center Street, Candi Davenport, 16, of George Street and Daniel Bettega, 17, of Fairview Street. They are scheduled for a court appearance in Great Barrington tomorrow.

Complaints cited

Smachetti told the youths that complaints have been received about large groups of young people blocking the sidewalks. He said the job of the police is to maintain law and order and keep the streets safe.

He also cited past incidents of trouble, including one in which someone set one of the courthouse doors on fire.

"We get the message," Smachetti said to the protesters. He asked them to give up the protest for the day, and they did.

However, the story told by the teen-agers was quite different. They complained that there is "absolutely nothing to do in this town" and said that when they took their problems to the police and Selectmen, they were told to shut up.

They said they are supposed to have rights but are not being treated as if they really do.

There are two sets of steps at the courthouse — one leading to the main entrance and a second leading to a door that no longer exists. They have been used probably as long as the courthouse has been there, most recently by people waiting for buses or simply killing time.

"They say this is a public place, but we have no right to sit there," Davenport said.

Morrison said the police often call teen-agers "punks" when ordering them to break up gatherings.

Lisa Jahn of St. Mary's Avenue said that by hanging around town, the youths at least were not up on the mountain, drinking and killing each other driving back drunk.

"We're not doing drugs, and we're not making trouble," Jahn said. "What else are we supposed to do?"

They said harassment by the police has been increasing over the past three weeks. The problem stems from the teens' lack of alternatives for places to gather, they said.

They said the Lee Youth Association, suggested by Smachetti, was no solution because it is frequented only by "jocks," or the town's athletes.

Their protest included signs reading, "If Not Here Where?", "We Need a Place to Go," "Where Do You Want Us to Go?" and "Lee Unfair to Teens."

Another sign, "Better Safe Than Sorry," was taped to the back of a car and driven around town, and several smaller youngsters pedaled signs around on their bikes.

After debating the issues with Smachetti, the protesters agreed to meet with the Selectmen tomorrow and then tore up their signs.

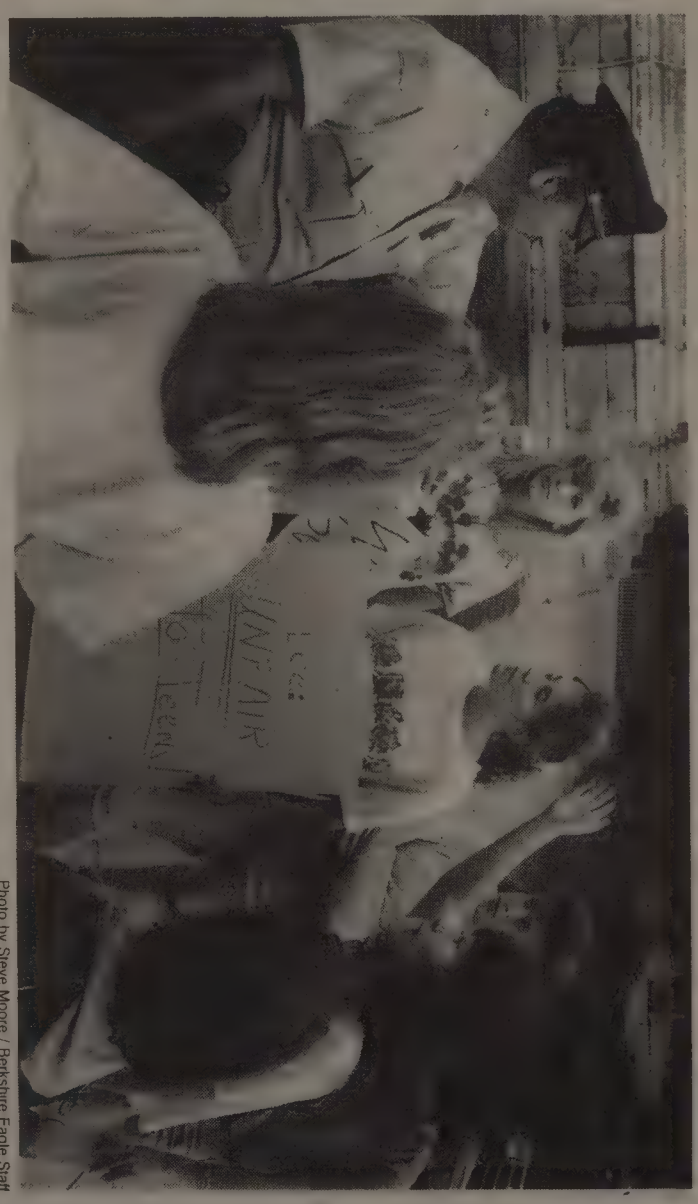

Photo by Steve Moore / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Acting Police Chief Henry Smachetti talks with group of Lee teen-agers protesting arrests over loitering and lack of activities in town. Candi Davenport, left rear, was one of the youths arrested Friday night.

Brian Sullivan / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Eagle 9.19.90 Pg. D8

Lee's Sharon Heath is ready to make a crossing pass during yesterday's game against Monument Mountain at the Lee field. Catching up to the play is Monument's Stephanie St. Peter. The visiting Spartans scored first, but the Wildcats netted the next six to win the game 6-1.

Lee High graduates pay for class adviser

Eagle 9.20.90 Pg. B6

LEE — The Lee School Committee learned Tuesday night that the Lee High School class of 1990 has donated $230 to fund a sophomore class adviser's position this year.

Lee Superintendent Henry T. Zukowski applauded the action of the class, adding that the sophomore class has not had a class adviser for several years.

"The position was cut out at the onset of the implementation of Proposition 2½," Zukowski said. "It was a very unselfish and wonderful gesture by the class of '90."

The committee also announced that the district's Drug Awareness Resistance Education program will be made available to 6th grade students at St. Mary's School and the Lee Christian Academy, as well as students at the Lee Central School.

The DARE program will be taught by members of the Lee Police Department. The program seeks to educate pre-high school students on the hazards of illegal drug use.

In other business, the committee appointed John P. Jones custodian and approved a leave of absence for teacher Gary Reichart.

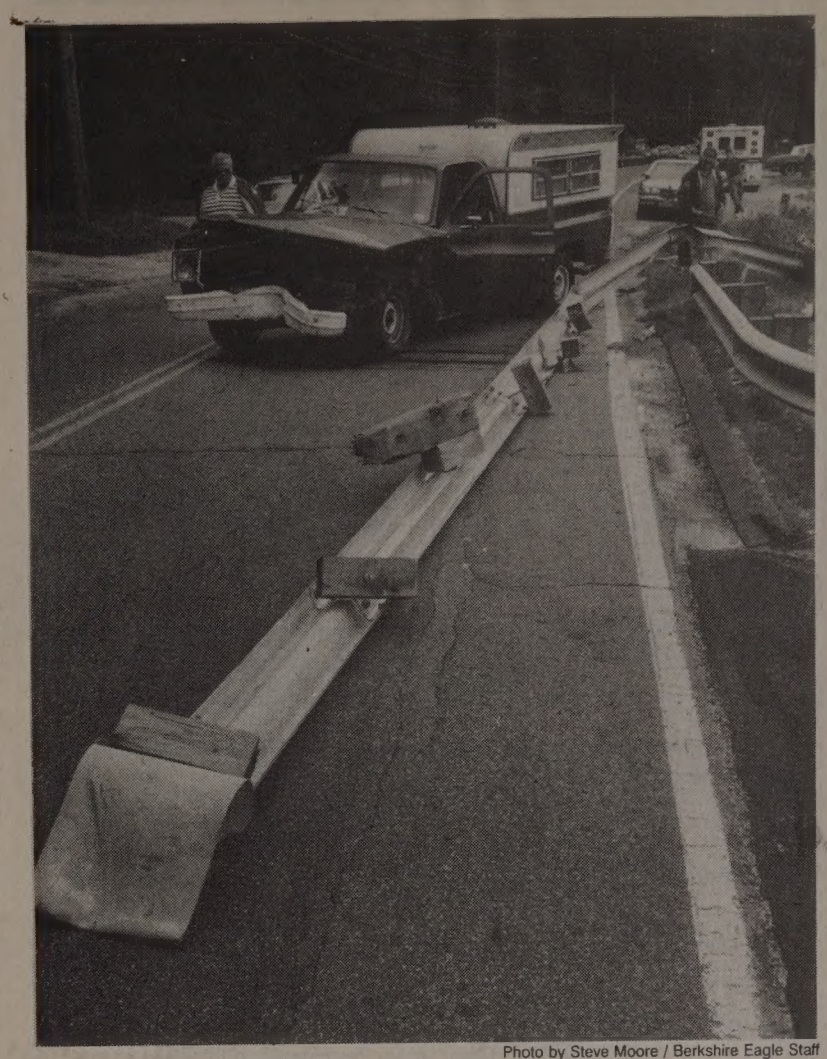

Photo by Steve Moore / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Car driven by a Pennsylvania man ripped out 70 feet of guardrail Saturday afternoon on Route 20 in Lee. Both occupants were injured.

Car trying to pass pickup crashes in Lee, injuring two

LEE — An accident Saturday around 2 p.m. leveled some 70 feet of guardrail on Route 20 and sent a Cheshire woman to the hospital for observation, but it did not result in charges against the driver.

Police Officer Henry J. Smachetti said a vehicle operated by Duane J. Evans, 20, of Pittson, Pa., was traveling north on Route 20 when he came upon a pickup truck attempting to make a turn. The operator of the truck was Gerald Cahalan Jr. of Teresa Terrace.

According to Smachetti, Evans was passing the Cahalan vehicle when it began turning left onto Laurel Lake Road, causing Evans to hit the steel guardrail beside the southbound lane.

Both Evans and his passenger, Melissa Coons, 22, of Cheshire, were taken to Berkshire Medical Center. Evans was treated and released. Coons was kept overnight for observation and released yesterday, Smachetti said.

Police did not bring charges against either driver, according to Smachetti, because of their conflicting stories about which way Cahalan was signaling he wanted to turn.

Smachetti said a witness to the accident did not know whether the pickup was signaling the left turn onto Laurel Lake Road, as Cahalan said, or a right turn onto Golden Hill, according to Evans.

The Evans vehicle was totaled, according to police. Cahalan's pickup was not damaged in the accident.

Teen-agers offer to work for hangout

Eagle 9.18.90 Pg. B1

By Derek Gentile
Berkshire Eagle Staff

LEE — A contingent of teen-aged residents told the Selectmen last night they would be willing to work with the town in finding a place to congregate without bothering older residents.

The meeting was prompted by an incident Saturday in which three young people were arrested by police for loitering on the courthouse steps.

Christina Fulcher, a spokesman for the nearly two dozen teen-agers who were at Town Hall, told the board that the steps were public property and that she and others were there because "there is nowhere else to go. It's near the police station and nobody causes any problems. If we can't sit there, we're wondering where we can go."

Selectmen Chairman Joseph DuPont told the group the town has a bylaw that prohibits loitering. He said he was willing to work with the group, as were all the Selectmen, but that he was not sure finding a place for them to congregate was the solution.

"I didn't do it, my kids didn't do it," he said. "I'm not telling everybody to go out and get a job or play sports, but I am saying this idea needs a little work. But if you're going to work at it, then that's a start."

Fulcher said the contingent was at the meeting to try to find a compromise.

'A middle ground'

"We aren't here to say 'We want this or that [that had] better be done,'" she said. "We want to come up with a plan that both parties can agree on. There has got to be a middle ground."

Fulcher added that the Lee Youth Association is not the answer, because it is a facility for younger residents.

Selectman William D. Bean said he has dealt with the issue of finding a

TEENS, continued on B4

Teens say they'll help look

■ TEENS, from B1

place for teen-agers to hang out for several years, "but we've never had any kids to make the commitment to working with us. We have to have that commitment."

He said he would contact Lee National Bank and inquire whether the ballfield adjacent to and owned by the bank could be used as a temporary place for the group. Fulcher and several others said that would be a good start.

Kathleen P. Hall, a teacher at Lee High School who also spoke for the group, said she would be willing to work with the teens to write out a proposal determining their wishes and needs and return to the Selectmen at a later date.

The Selectmen also said they would need to discuss the matter with Police Chief Edward Finnegan, who is on vacation.

Other business

In other business, the board agreed to contact Fire Chief Ronald J. Driscoll following a complaint by Janice E. Welcome of Ferncliff Avenue concerning Lee Oil Co. Welcome said the company suffered a gas leak last week that resulted in the evacuation of several homes on the street.

She said there have been several gasoline spills on the road and said she has seen welding operations going on at the site.

She said the narrow width of Ferncliff Avenue made it difficult for trucks owned by the company to turn around, and added that they often block the street. Welcome questioned whether some town department could look into the business and address those problems.

The board agreed to ask Driscoll to investigate and to report to the town next week.

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

The man in the middle

Eagle 9.22.90 Pg. D1

Wahconah Regional's Craig Calvert (11) is hemmed in by Lee High defenders Mike Consolati (4) and Aaron Brighenti (19) during yesterday's high school soccer game in Lee. Calvert scored on a penalty kick for the final goal in Wahconah's 6-0 victory. Story and other photo on Page D10.

Eagle 9.22.90 Pg. D10

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Ahead of the pack is Wahconah's Kevin Crosier (17), who scored fourth goal in yesterday's 6-0 soccer victory at Lee. Wildcats chasing him include Mike Consolati (4) and Aaron Brighenti (19).

Eagle 9.21.90 Pg. B1

Craig F. Walker / Berkshire Eagle Staff

Pause that refreshes

Lee High freshmen Grace Murray, left, and Nancy Isenhart enjoy ice cream at the Cone Zone in Lee.

Residents fear gas leak and business growth

Pg. B5

LEE — Ferncliff Avenue residents, who remain agitated about a gas leak on their street, say they will bring a petition to the Selectmen tomorrow asking the board to look into potential zoning violations at Lee Oil Co.

Robert A. and Janice E. Welcome attended last week's Selectmen's meeting in the wake of a Sept. 11 leak that forced the evacuation of the street's residents for several hours. The Welcomes suggested that the business was inappropriate in a heavily populated residential area.

One side of Ferncliff Avenue, where Lee Oil is located, is zoned industrial. The other side of the street is zoned residential.

Janice Welcome, who is one of the originators of the petition, added that the business seems to have grown and asked the board last week to check whether the necessary special permits have been filed.

Eagle 9.23.90

Eagle 9.23.90 Pg. C1

Krista Schmidinger wins Pan-Am gold

LAS LENAS, Argentina — Krista Schmidinger of Lee shook off the disappointment of a fifth-place finish in the giant slalom, and came back two hours later to claim a gold medal yesterday in the super-G race on the final day of the first Pan American Winter Games.

Schmidinger won the super giant slalom with a time of 1:09.11 while Canada's Kendra Kobalka took second in 1:09.54. Julie Parisien of Auburn, Maine, was third at 1:10.05.

Kim Schmidinger, Krista's sister, did not compete in the super-G race, but did claim a sixth-place finish in the earlier gialnt slalom event.

Yesterday's two-race schedule was mandated when high winds and snow rolled into the region after the downhill races on Tuesday. Three days of postponements forced officials to scrap the slalom planned for the final day. The super-G and giant slalom races were scheduled instead with men and women competing on the same course under clear skies.

"My run was pretty good," said Krista, about her super-G performance. "I went ninth so I knew the course would still be in pretty good condition. It did get a little bumpy on the bottom, though."

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